

**West Carroll Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 9, 2011**

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

The meeting was called to order by President Highland at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jerry Anderson; Tim Atherton; John Brigham; Mike Highland; Mark Klein; and Dawn Rath

Members Absent: Bev Kilpatrick

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

Others present: Brad Field, Randy Law, Melinda Appel, and Media (Bill Gengenbach, Samantha Pidde, Michael Miller Bob Watson)

**Consent Agenda**

Due to the meeting being earlier in the month than usual, Board members received a list of the bills at the meeting. The JoCarroll Energy bill for the Primary School still has a credit balance due to the misread on the meter last month. Mr. Mathers referred to a bill from PlayWorld Preferred. Retired teachers, Kathy Prins and Cindy VanZuiden donated funds for the purchase of a piece of playground equipment at the Primary School. There were no other questions on the bills.

- Minutes – October 19, 2011; Regular Meeting
- Minutes – October 19, 2011; Regular Meeting, Closed Session
- Financial Reports; Payment of Bills; Activity Accounts; FRIS Report
- Destruction of Closed Session Tape - Regular Meeting, January 21, 2010  
(1 tape)

Motion by Brigham to approve the items of the consent agenda as presented. Second by Anderson. Roll call vote: 6 yes, Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

None

**Correspondence**

Board members were given a copy of the letter from Teri Houzenga and Melinda Appel regarding Thomson transportation. Teri Houzenga presented this information at the October meeting.

**Administrative Reports**

Julie Katzenberger, Middle School principal, reported 156 students were recognized for being on either high or regular honor roll and 119 students were recognized for having perfect attendance. The Academic Fair has been rescheduled for March 22, 2012. The Middle School music department will perform a Fall into Winter Concert on November 29.

Pam Delp, Special Education/Preschool director, stated she continues to receive very positive feedback from her staff on the IEP software program. She feels this program is very beneficial to the district with improved quality and consistency of student IEPs. Bryan Kamper has been conducting non-violent crisis intervention refresher courses for district staff. He will conduct an initial class later in the school year. The preschool "Daddy and Me" parent child activity night was a great success in all three districts. This is an opportunity for the preschool student and his or her daddy to participate in fun activities. Mrs. Delp is participating in the home visit appointments with the parent educators. Home visits are an integral part of the program allowing the preschool staff to provide as much

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support to the families as possible. The Early Childhood Program received some very positive comments on their Prevention Initiative grant. Preschool teachers coordinated parent/teacher conference times with their student's siblings at the Primary School. They then held their conferences at the Primary School with the same families. By doing this they were able to have 100% participation in their parent/teacher conferences. Board members felt this was a very good idea and thanked Mrs. Delp for the innovative idea.

Robert Lamb, High School principal, stated the semester testing format is being changed a little. Semester test grades count for 10% of the final semester grade. Tests will be given over a three day period like before but the class times are being shortened to 70-75 minutes from 90 minutes. Each class will have a review period and the testing period will follow. It is hoped this will be beneficial to the students. Mr. Lamb shared a list of grant requests for the West Carroll Education Foundation. The Foundation tries to give back to the district monetary support in the amount of \$20,000 - \$25,000 each year. The Foundation will meet on November 16 to approve grant requests. Mr. Lamb thanked, in advance, the Education Foundation. They really help the district out a lot.

Clint Cowman, assistant High School principal, reported there was a good turn-out for the winter sports parent meeting. He reviewed the number of athletes participating in winter sports and the dates of upcoming games and contests. Meet the Thunder is scheduled for Friday, November 11.

Jeanette Ashby, Primary School principal, informed the Board there are slight changes to the holiday concert schedule from the original district calendar. The Veterans Day program is scheduled for November 10. The Primary has implemented a new reading program using high school athletes as readers. The Primary teachers and students are really enjoying themselves. The athletes will be a part of the Primary School Reading Night. The PTO is donating funds to pay for some of the costs of the program.

Brad Field, Technology director, and Mr. Mathers are working together to get quotes for more bandwidth and wireless access to the district. Wireless access will be a necessity in the near future. A meeting was held with Daniel Payette regarding iFiber. Several companies are being looked at regarding cost and benefits to the district. Illinois Century Network is guaranteeing anyone using iFiber will get an additional 8mb of bandwidth. Cost of this service is not available yet but it will be a good option. Physical connection to iFiber will not be available until the fall of 2013. The district must make some decisions prior to this time. What type of equipment will the district need to be able to access the 8mb? The first quote for 5mb was \$36,000 per year. This is not an affordable solution. iFiber will be brought to the district door step and the district will then be responsible for the necessary equipment in the building. The district must file a letter of intent with the iFiber organization but will not be obligated or locked into the system until the price quote or bid is received. ICN will offer additional bandwidth after that. Each building currently has 1.5mb of bandwidth and needs at least 5mb per building. With state assessments requiring the use of computers more band width will be needed. A long term plan for the future is the first part of the process that needs to be done.

Craig Mathers, Superintendent, reported student attendance for October was slightly lower. The flu season has started. The minutes from the West Carroll Sports Booster meeting were included for Board members to read. Mr. Mathers continues to keep Board members informed of all aspects of the district including its' affiliated organizations. All district bleachers have been inspected. A few issues were found and George Kruse either already completed the repairs or is in the process of doing so. Last month the audit report stated district employees handling money should be bonded. This could be a significant cost issue for the district. Mr. Mathers contacted the district attorney to clarify the intent of the school code pertaining to this issue. The intent of the code is that only those people who are in charge of the keeping the accounts need be bonded. Mr. Mathers will proceed with

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that thought for bonding to bring the district into compliance. Miller Buettner & Parrott, Inc. was recognized as the 2011 Employer of the Year through AAIM Employers' Association. Superintendent Mathers wrote a letter to Palatine Oil Company regarding the one percent sales tax. The district has not received an answer yet. Legislative reports indicated that there will be no TRS reform resulting from this legislative session. If it would pass there is a high cost factor for the district. Information was received today stating that an eleventh hour amendment is in the works for transportation and to pay the regional superintendents. This amendment sounds promising because it is sponsored by Michael Madigan. The Illinois school report cards became available October 31. Mr. Mathers spoke with Merle Long and the Haunted Forest doubled attendance from the previous year. It was a huge success. Students helping with the event raised approximately \$1,400 on behalf of the High School Yearbook and National Honor Society. The After Prom Committee also received some money. Horace Mann is the managing agent for the employee benefit medical spending accounts. They are changing how the accounts are being handled. They will no longer front bank the accounts. The district will now have to front the funds or reimbursements. Information regarding these changes will be included in the November 22<sup>nd</sup> payroll.

### **Board Committee Reports**

None

### **Old Business**

#### **Workman's Compensation Insurance Bids**

Three vendors submitted bids to the district for workman's compensation insurance. The low bid quote is \$16,000 less than last year's premium. Highland stated Star Insurance, who was the low bid, only has an A minus rating. His personal feeling is to stay with Selective Insurance that has a higher rating of A plus. There is not that big of a difference between the two bid quotes. Mr. Mathers stated less payroll and the modification experience factor made a big difference in the quotes received. Atherton said he didn't feel a need to change companies due to the significant decrease in premium from the previous year. Superintendent Mathers stated the board must have a reason for not accepting the low bid quoted.

Motion by Atherton to approve the bid from Selective Insurance (Lockhart & Law Ins. Agency), due to the higher Best Rating of A+, for workman's compensation insurance in the amount of \$64,166 for December 1, 2011 – December 1, 2012. Second by Highland. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

#### **AVC Funding Plan**

Superintendent Mathers reported after a lengthy two hour discussion at the AVC meeting on November 7 the issue of a funding plan for the AVC was tabled until the December meeting. Stockton wanted more discussion with their local Board prior to accepting any revised funding plan. The tuition funding model is based on student numbers enrolled from each district. This type of funding is more equitable for each district and keeps the funding for the AVC more consistent. Each school's payment commitment is a year behind. Each school would be responsible for funds next year based on student enrollment from the current year. Schools in the area that are not members of the AVC will also pay fees. The bylaws of the AVC and the Eagle Ridge Delivery System should each mirror each other. Currently, they are not aligned.

## **New Business**

### **Tentative FY2013 Tax Levy**

It is anticipated the district will experience a 2.5% decrease in EAV. Farmland will be up 10% but the EAV on residential will be down. Because of current fund balances in IMRF and Social Security the district can under levy those two funds so the balances can be spent down. Bond and interest can not be controlled by the district. As EAV goes down the bond and interest rate goes up. The estimated tax rate, with bond and interest, is \$5.71. The district anticipates approximately \$100,000 less tax revenue. The levy must be filed with the county clerk's by the last Tuesday in December. Due to the holiday schedules and the possibility of inclement weather would the Board want to move the meeting up one week to December 14? It is not necessary to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing because the district is under the 105% threshold but by doing so it demonstrates transparency to the tax payers.

Motion by Rath to approve the first reading of the 2011 tax levy (2012-2013) and set a Truth in Taxation hearing before the December 14, 2011 Board of Education meeting. Second by Klein. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

### **Parent/Teacher Conference Update**

This is the first year formal surveys were administered to parents for feedback on the conferences, learning environment, and services delivered. Mrs. Ashby stated the Primary survey has some very positive comments. Each teacher at the Primary has had some kind of communication with the parents of each student whether it was face to face, by telephone, or computer resulting in 100% participation. Mr. Lamb stated that with an enrollment of approximately 400 students 200 parents were involved in parent/teacher conferences. Of those 200 approximately 35% returned the surveys. At the high school and middle school level parents are trying to meet with eight different teachers. The high school received some interesting comments. Mrs. Delp had 100% participation at the preschool level and good comments; feedback is always a good thing. Mrs. Katzenberger and her school improvement team included some additional questions on their survey regarding technology and internet use in the home. She had 140 parents respond to the survey questions. One question asked how many parents used Skyward to view their child's grades etc. Mr. Lamb asked actually how many parents are on Skyward. Mr. Field said the activity is down about 3% from last year. There are 2000 active accounts in Skyward but only 9.6% have actually logged in with a user name and password. There may be more activity on Skyward than appears because many parents receive email notifications regarding their child's grades and they do not have to log-in to view what they want to see.

### **Closed Session for any lawful purpose including, but not limited to:**

Motion by Highland to go into closed session at 7:25 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; and E. student discipline cases. Second by Atherton. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

The Board of Education returned the regular meeting to open session at 8:22 p.m.

### **Action on Closed Session Items**

Motion by Highland to uphold the administrative decisions for out of school suspensions, transportation suspensions, and extra-curricular/athletic infractions at West Carroll High School, Middle School, and Primary School as presented. Second by Anderson. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson to approve, with regret, the resignation of Tracey Rein as freshman volleyball coach at West Carroll High School. Second by Klein. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent.

Motion by Klein to approve the administrative recommendation to employ Paul Wurster as RAP bus driver and Nicole Hartman as a bus aide. Second by Brigham. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Brigham to approve the administrative recommendation to employ Bryan Kamper as varsity baseball coach at West Carroll High School. Second by Rath. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Rath to approve the administrative recommendation to appoint volunteer assistant coaches, Joe Guilinger for 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball at West Carroll Middle School and Clint Cowman for boys' basketball at West Carroll High School. Second Atherton. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Atherton to approve the request of Deb Manninen to purchase a fourth personal day per the Collective Bargaining Agreement; Article IX, Section 9.01, B - 2. Second by Highland. Roll call vote: 6 yes, Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

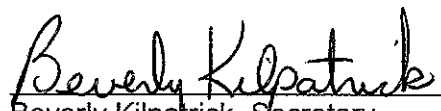
Motion by Klein to waive the yearly fee for 2010-2011 for the Thomson Youth Softball and Baseball Association. Second by Anderson. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

Motion by Highland to commend Brad Field for being a recipient of the 2011 Highland Community College Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award. Second by Rath. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Atherton to adjourn the regular November meeting of the Board of Education at 8:50 p.m. Second by Highland. Roll call vote: 6 yes; Kilpatrick absent. Motion carried.

Sandra Aude  
Recording Secretary

  
Beverly Kilpatrick, Secretary  
West Carroll Board of Education

  
Michael D. Highland, President  
West Carroll Board of Education