

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board Briefs
May 21, 2009**

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

Administration present: Superintendent Mathers
Principals Ashby Delp, Katzenberger, Lamb and Burkholder
Members present: Atherton, Boyd, Brigham, Highland, Kilpatrick, Sweeney
Members absent: Klein
Others present: Media, Ed Saunders, Breeanna Much and her AVC Instructor,
Don Enloe, Keta Foltz, Amber Findlay, Angie Kamper, Laurie
Miller, Mary Lou Buettner

Approved April 16, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes.
Approved April 16, 2009, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Minutes.
Approved April 29, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes.
Approved the financial reports and payment of bills as presented

Public Comments- None

Correspondence

- Thank you notes from WC staff members, Susie Ostrum, Claudine Guenzler, and Kathy VanBrocklin, who have lost loved ones in the past month.
- Thank you from the WC Education Foundation for the funds raised during a raffle to support the Foundation.
- Superintendent, Craig Mathers passed around a thank you from students who had used the Middle School for an activity.
- Boyd thanked Mr. Lamb and his staff for a beautiful graduation ceremony.
- Principal, Pam Delp stated the EXCEL Class at the Intermediate School received a donation from Mrs. Ferguson (Kathy VanBrocklin's mother) in the amount of \$200.

Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby, reported that the final AIMSWeb screening has been completed. There are 112 students registered for summer school. Third grade visited the Intermediate School on Thursday, May 14. Highland commented on how well the 3rd grade students were doing with the swimming lessons. He thanked the teachers and all involved in getting this worthwhile program started. Ashby commented that the Freshman Orientation was very good and well attended. Ashby thanked her staff for the wonderful year.

Intermediate Principal, Pam Delp, reported that her staff is working hard on the planning of Rtl and Co-Teaching for the next school year. She congratulated Beth Diener and her Eco Meet teams on their first and fourth placing on May 1. Quinn Rumler placed first, Brianna Kampmeier, and Bailey Durward tied for 2nd place. Mitchell Prowant and Allison Brunner represented the Intermediate School at the IPA Student Leadership Brunch on May 8. As part of the US Fish and Wildlife Grant 4th grade spent time on the local Prairie on May 12 and 13. The 3rd graders visited the Intermediate School on May 14. The 4th grade Picnic/Swim day was on May 15 (picnic in gym due to rain) and the 5th grade was on May 21. May 19 the 4th grade students participated in a Walk/Bike A Thon. The money raised will be donated to Cystic Fibrosis in honor of Corey Devore. The 5th grade students will be visiting the Middle School on May 27. Delp thanked her staff for all their hard work and enthusiasm for this school year.

West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting Board Briefs

May 21, 2009

(Page 2)

Special Education Report – Pam Delp. Rtl is here to stay. Each building will have a committee. Co-teaching is be used at the Intermediate and Middle Schools in Reading with full inclusion in Reading. The High School has several classes that are co-taught and is planning a Learning Strategies Study Hall. School Improvement days next year will continue to update and gain input on the Rtl process and the staff is encouraged to attend training on Differentiated Instruction and Co-Teaching strategies. Delp has been busy completing Personnel Reimbursement forms and checking final Child Count lists. Additional paraprofessional training is planned for next year to continue the training of staff to help them be as effective as possible with our students.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger congratulated the 7th and 8th grade girls' track teams and the 7th grade boys' track team for capturing first place at the LeWin Invitational. Their coaches Ron Kivisto and Pat McIntyre were very happy with the results. Katzenberger congratulated Mike Rowson for earning his Masters Degree from Ashford University in Teaching and Learning with Technology. She explained the student and staff activities for the last four days of the school year. Pat Davis and Judy Schreiber will be retiring at the end of this school year and Katzenberger thanked them for their dedicated years of service to education.

High School Principal, Bob Lamb, reported that Freshman Orientation was held on May 20. All staff members were present and 85% of the incoming Freshman Class was present. High School clubs and groups were present to talk with the students. Boys' track will be involved in the sectional track meet and both the varsity softball and baseball teams are in the final game of the regional. This is the second year in a row that the softball team has won the conference. Semester Test schedule is May 26 and 27 and May 29 is staff checkout. The High School is having health and life/safety work this summer and the move to vacate the building will begin at 12:00 noon. The Office will be located at the Primary School Library.

Assistant Principal, Monica Burkholder, gave a brief report on the very exciting ending of the baseball game with West Carroll coming from behind and beating Forreston.

Technology Director, Brad Field, reported there had been 47 work orders this month with 10 still open. He has been preparing for the health and life/safety work at the high school. All technology including the servers will be moved from the building. There are only a couple of projects planned for the summer. The new computers have arrived and he will be busy gearing them up for next school year.

Superintendent Mathers presented the monthly attendance report. Attendance is up to over 94%. He provided the Board with several informational items in the packet. One in particular is from the Quality Circle meeting. The teaching staff is interested in doing more team building activities. Mathers will look into getting Gary Devore for an inservice day. Thank you notes will be sent to the Savanna Fire Department for helping to ready the Athletic Field for graduation exercises and the Haiti Mission volunteers for set up and tear down for graduation. The 3M Company has donated to the district a large quantity of their products. This will be a nice saving for the district for next year's supplies. He provided the Board with a list of the end of the year activities.

Board Committee Reports - None

Approved the Second Reading of Board Policies as presented.

The Handbooks were presented for the second reading. Atherton feels the grades needed to participate in extra-curricular activities should be higher. Sweeney stated that several options were looked at including a points system. Kilpatrick asked if the handbook is looked at every year. The handbook and

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board Briefs**

May 21, 2009

(Page 3)

grading process will be evaluated again next year prior to board approval. Highland had a couple grammatical corrections.

Approved the Second Reading of the 2009-2010 Handbooks as presented.

Bids for property and casualty insurance were opened on May 11, 2009. Trissel Graham and Toole submitted the low bid of \$59,000 with Hanover Insurance a carrier with an "A" rating. Superintendent Mathers inquired from the companies if the district could pick specific sections based on pricing and was informed that the prices were based on an all or nothing bid.

Accepted the bid from Trissel Graham and Toole of \$59,000 for Property and Casualty, Treasurers Bond, and School Board Legal Liability Insurance.

Approved the destruction of the September 20, 2007, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Tape.

Breeanna Much, an AVC student, has earned the right to attend the Skills USA National Competition. She is asking for financial assistance to help with expenses. AVC agreed to pay half of the fixed costs, \$292.50, but this does not include food or incidentals. Last year the district had two students qualify and the Board donated \$215 to each of them.

Approved to provide financial assistance in the amount of \$292.50 to help Breeanna Much with expenses for her trip to the Skills USA National Competition.

Keta Foltz, Amber Findlay, and Angie Kamper, gave a power point/computer video presentation on how Rocky the Writing Raccoon is being used to promote writing at WCPS. Through teachers' creativity, generous donations from Facemakers, the PTO, and the WC Education Foundation the students are excited about writing in a variety of ways. Rocky actually has a website to answer individual student's inquiries. 1st grade students will all have Writing Bags to take home for the summer and Writing Workshops are planned at the public library in each town. These same teachers plus Janell Hartman and Christa Curley were invited to give a presentation on Rocky the Writing Raccoon at the Illinois Reading Conference this spring.

Laurie Miller of Miller and Buettner provided a summary sheet of the health insurance comparison keeping Blue Cross Blue Shield as our provider. The orthodontist option is based on a request from the insurance committee to investigate this option. Dental is employee paid. With no change in benefits the health insurance bid came back with a 3.9% increase on health insurance, no increase on life insurance, and no increase in the dental plan. Open enrollment for our group is September 1. Since there are no changes in the benefits provided, it does not require Association approval. It does require Board approval. The bid results in "new money" needed of \$34,000 to fund our existing employees.

Approved the bid from Blue Cross Blue Shield as the District's Health Insurance Provider.

It is necessary to change signature names on the bank account for the Vaughn E. Hungerford Scholarship. This scholarship is generated through a memorial from a citizen in the in the Mt. Carroll School District. The representative from Mt. Carroll has always been listed. Kilpatrick will replace Dennis Foltz and Superintendent Mathers recommends that Bob Lamb be added as the representative who oversees the high school activity account.

West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting

Board Briefs

May 21, 2009

(Page 4)

Approved the signatures of Sandra Aude, Bev Kilpatrick, Anita Stott, Bob Lamb, and Mary Rapp on the Vaughn E. Hungerford Scholarship Signature Card.

The WC Sports Boosters are asking for permission to fund and install a batting cage at WCIS. The equipment would be installed in the gym and could be used for baseball, softball, and golf. Booster member, Don Enloe presented this request at the April board meeting.

Approved to allow the Sports Boosters to install a batting cage at the WC Intermediate School.

Superintendent Mathers will be receiving information on the Board of Education Conference. The date is Friday, November 20 – Sunday, November 22, 2009. He would like to know if Board members are interested so hotel rooms can be secured and the expense built into the budget. New board members were informed that this is a great opportunity to gain knowledge from other districts in Illinois and keep abreast of topics related to education.

The Regional Office of Education has built into the grant a \$2,000 stipend for the Administrator at WCPS who oversees the Regional Alternative Program (RAP) and deals with any behavior problems.

Approved to authorize the payment of a \$2,000.00 stipend to Jeanette Ashby for serving as the administrator in charge for the Regional Alternative program that is located in the WC Primary School Building.

The Board must approve the annual renewal of the leases for the bus barn on Dauphin Road, Savanna; the bus garage at 203 North Mill Street, Mt. Carroll; and the bus stall at 117 South Mill Street, Mt. Carroll. The insurance proposal covers the building contents owned by the district and the owners must insure the building. We need to continue to use the facilities even as we expect to get construction stimulus money. If we build, it would take time and we would need to continue this arrangement until completed.

Approved Bus Garage Rental Agreements for 2009-2010 with John and Beth Ritchie for \$1,500.00 per month and \$80.00 for utilities; Ken Lego for \$70.00 per month; and Ronald Holm for \$600.00 per month.

Superintendent Mathers informed the Board that the finalized documents between the attorneys and the City of Mt. Carroll granting the District access to the tower to install a communications device have been received. The attorneys have told Mathers the order in which to file all the documents. The district will then submit a bill to the City of Mt. Carroll for attorney fees as part of the original agreement

Approved the grant of easement and license agreement.

Superintendent Mathers says the District has an agreement to provide Head Start a classroom at WCPS for early childhood instruction. This is a federally funded program not associated with the school. The current arrangement has Head Start and Early Step sharing a teacher for 2008-2009. That arrangement does not allow Head Start to meet their federal guidelines on time/hours devoted to the program. The current financial arrangement generates approximately \$995 for the district; phone usage and custodian. In discussion between Mathers and Terri Lawrence, director, she has agreed to levels currently in place with other locations; \$5,000 for room rental and \$750 for custodian costs. WC has classroom space available. Head Start would also like to install phone lines, at their costs, so calls do not have to go through the WCPS office.

Approved an agreement with Head Start to pay \$5,000.00 for room rental and \$750.00 for custodial costs to cover the use of a classroom at the WC Primary School for the 2009-2010 school year.

West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting

Board Briefs

May 21, 2009

(Page 5)

Dan Hartman has provided Superintendent Mathers with a list of equipment no longer needed or used in the Agriculture Department. It is recommended to dispose of the equipment through bids so the district can keep its equipment up to date and save storage. The items will need to be purchased "as is" as some will need repairs to become operational.

Approved the disposal of equipment no longer needed or used in the Agriculture Department by selling the equipment "as is".

The final piece of the K-12 Math Adoption has been decided. The WC Primary staff was very split on two companies; Everyday Math or EnVision. Their recommendation is to adopt EnVision to align the curriculum materials K-12. The 3rd grade book is not consumable. It will cost more in year one but the book will not be an annual cost.

Approved EnVision for grades K-3 Math as the final part of the K-12 Math Adoption.

Milk and bread bids for 2009-2010 have been secured through the assistance of The Three Rivers Cafeteria Cooperative. The bread prices stayed the same as FY09 and the milk prices have declined.

Approved Sara Lee Bakery for the District Bread Bid and Swiss Valley Farms for the District Milk Bid for 2009-2010.

Entered closed session at 8:14 P.M. for consideration of the Appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees; Collective Bargaining matters or consideration of salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and Student discipline cases.

The Board returned to open session at 9:07 P.M.

Employed Bryan Kamper, Rhonda Hartman, and Nikki Bivins to provide Extended School Year Services as needed to meet the requirements of Individualized Education Plans for West Carroll Students for summer, 2009.

Employed Diana Hoover as a West Carroll High School English Teacher for the 2009-2010 school year.

Employed Jared Green as a full time Evening Custodian at the West Carroll Primary School.

Employed Brad Charneski as the West Carroll District Groundskeeper, which is a six (6) month position.

Employed Keta Foltz, as Director of Summer School; Christa Curley, Amber Findlay, Jennifer Goss, Stephanie Iben, Angela Kamper, Patricia Laughlin, Rhonda Law, Tracey Rein, Laurie Swanson, Pam Watts, and Lisa Wolfe as 2009 Summer School Teachers; and Joan Brooks as an Aide

Employed Travis Hartman, Barb Hamling, and Kyle Bielema as 2009 summer custodial help.

Employed Kevin Venner as the 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach and the 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach for 2009-2010.

Employed Sherri Blake as EXCEL Teacher at West Carroll Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year.

Adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

