

June 18, 2009

West Carroll Board of Education

Board “Briefs”

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 Delp and Katzenberger
Members present: Boyd, Brigham, Highland, Klein, Sweeney
Members absent: Atherton, Kilpatrick
Others present: Brad Field and Media

Minutes from the May 21, 2009, Regular Meeting and Closed Session were approved. Financial reports and payment of bills as presented were approved.

Public Comments - None

Correspondence

- Thank you notes from WC staff members Lois Spencer and Judy Schreiber for their retirement gifts.
- Thank you from the Mt. Carroll American Legion for the participation of the WCMS Band in the Memorial Day observances.
- Thank you from Dallas Kosier for allowing her to attend the 8th grade Circa 21 field trip and how proud she was of the well behaved group of students in attendance.
- Thank you from Breeanna Much for the financial assistance given to her to attend the National Skills USA Competition. Superintendent Mathers informed the Board that Laurie Miller and her mother (Miller & Buettner) spoke with Breeanna after her presentation at last month’s meeting and gave additional financial assistance towards her National Skills USA Competition.

Administrative Reports

Intermediate principal, Pam Delp, reported that forty-one students earned perfect attendance for the 4th quarter and six had perfect attendance for the year. WCIS attendance rate was 94.8% for the year. Fifty-six students earned a place on the 4th quarter Honor Roll. There are 27 third grade and 12 fourth grade students attending summer school. Mrs. Delp reported that WCIS had a great start to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge grant. Both 4th and 5th grade students were involved in ecosystem, wildlife, and bird population studies. Six WCIS teachers will plan activities and develop curriculum for future years at a week long retreat. Mrs. Delp thanked Kathleen Morgen and Pam Steinhaus for all of their dedication and assistance with the program. The custodians and secretaries are hard at work preparing for the next school year.

Special Education Report – Pam Delp will be reviewing the student IEP’s checking for accuracy and compliance issues. She attended a meeting on June 9 on current legal topics and trends in special education. This is an annual meeting that is very helpful. Mrs. Delp is working on the school schedule to make changes for Rtl for the next school year. WCIS will be moving to special education inclusion for reading and co-teaching to help provide for all students who need extra attention.

Middle School principal, Julie Katzenberger reported that the Music Camp is being held at the Middle School. This is the biggest camp ever with 74 students participating. 2009-2010 registration is scheduled for July 28th and 29th at the Primary School. A Meet the Teacher Night has been scheduled

for August 17th. Ron Kivisto and his crew has been busy painting inside and out at the Middle School. The parking lot is receiving fresh paint. All the custodians have been busy with cleaning the building. Mrs. Katzenberger was pleased to announce that the Middle School students made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all areas of curriculum. The Middle School subgroup (students with disabilities) increased by 15.3% from 2008 to 2009 in reading and 5.4% in math. She also thanked all teachers, custodians, office workers, etc. for their outstanding work and dedication throughout the last school year.

High School principal, Bob Lamb and Primary School principal, Jeannette Ashby were not in attendance but their reports were included in the mail out packet to the board members for their review.

Technology Director, Brad Field, reported that all technology hardware had been moved out of the high school at the end of May. Currently, he and Jeff Holley are doing the annual updates on equipment, getting the new computers ready, and gearing up for the next school year and the end of the summer move back to the high school. He is also dealing with problems that have arisen from the moving of the server.

Superintendent Mathers gave a brief update on the health and life/safety work being done at the high school. The windows in the cafeteria are coming out two days ahead of schedule. One bank of the football field lights at the high school is not working and the rest can be very temperamental. The district has known that Jo-Carroll Energy wants to move the transformer for safety reasons. George Kruse is getting bids for replacing the lights. One bid is \$8,300. George thinks the district can order the materials needed and work with Marx Electric for around \$6,000. The wire underground has been checked and seems to be in good condition. Jo-Carroll Energy notified the district in April that there will be a rate increase of 37%. Mr. Mathers and other area superintendents met with Jo-Carroll Energy to discuss lowering energy costs. Several ideas were discussed including sharing costs with other districts. Jo-Carroll Energy is actively looking to put up a plant in the area. They do not produce their own energy they must buy it from other companies.

Mr. Mathers stated that the legislature has been called back to Springfield because of the budget. General state aid is to be increased by \$231 and the Early Childhood Grants are being reduced by 50%. Brigham and Klein asked Mathers what the district's pre-school programs will do if they are not fully funded. The district is responsible, per state law, to provide pre-school thus the costs would fall to the district. Mr. Mathers asked board members if they all had received information on Master Board Members. He will get the information to those members that do not have it.

Discussion was held on the proposed zoning changes that the Carroll County Board is looking to implement. The County wants to change the amount of acreage that a person can buy for building to 40 acres from the current five acres. The Board instructed Mr. Mathers to send letters to the zoning chairman, county board chairman, and Mike Doty, county administrator regarding the zoning changes. The Board of Education feels the zoning change would prohibit people from coming to Carroll County to purchase land creating slow growth within the county affecting the district's EAV and student population.

Teresa Duggan with the PTO is setting up a web site link with the West Carroll web site and homepage.

Board Committee Reports – None

Old Business

The High School shop equipment for sale from the AG Department was posted and communicated, but not advertised. Mr. Mathers was afraid that it would cost more to advertise than would be received in revenue. One bid was received for one piece of equipment. Tim O'Conner placed a bid of \$301.00 for the table saw. The remaining equipment will be posted in the district newsletter in August.

The bid from Tim O'Conner for \$301.00 for the table saw was accepted.

Destruction of the October 18, 2007, Regular Meeting – Closed Session tape was approved.

New Business

In the fiscal year budget for 2009, the administrative line item was credited funds in excess of the 5% cap that is dictated by ISBE. The excess funds are a direct result of trying to create the true picture of administrative costs by including postage, postage meter costs, and our internet connection. The budget line item exceeded the 5% cap by \$2,153.00.

The budget correction to line item 10-2310-411 for \$2,200 was approved.

During the selling of the last set of bonds, the district had to spend a specific amount of capital outlay to demonstrate the need for the funds requested. The money originally was deposited into Fund 70: Working Cash per bond authority. With the end of the fiscal year, it is necessary to abate the funds into the proper account to demonstrate the fund of actual payment and to balance the funds.

From a court case decided in January 2009, this process will need to be done in two steps. Funds cannot go straight from Working Cash into Transportation. The funds have to be abated into the Education Fund and then a loan transfer from the Education Fund to Transportation. In July 2009, we will execute a permanent transfer to eliminate the loan. If the transfer is not made permanent, Transportation will have to repay the loan within three years.

The Board approved a Working Cash abatement for \$208,492 to the Education Fund.

The Board approved an Education Fund loan to the Transportation Fund for \$208,492.

Brigham noted there was a mistake in the dollar amount of the abatement and loan within the two previous motions.

An amendment to the motions from agenda items 10 - B (abatement) and 10 - C (loan) to correct the dollar amount from \$208,492 to \$208,092 was approved.

Mr. Mathers is requesting permission to put out bids for fuel – diesel and unleaded for the 2009-2010 school year. The District owns the tanks in Thomson and Mt. Carroll. In case the current supplier (Carroll Service – FS) is not awarded the bid the winning bidder will need to supply tanks at the Savanna location; 11752 Dauphin Road.

The Board approved to let for bid the fuel bids for 2009 – 2010.

All schools are required to adopt a Resolution of Prevailing Wage. The Regional Office of Education continues to support the area schools by paying for the cost of publicizing this statement in the local papers.

The Prevailing Wage Resolution was approved

The Mount Carroll Fire Department has requested the use of the West Carroll Middle School property for the July 4th fireworks. The proper paperwork has been completed and a Certificate of Liability Insurance provided. The Savanna Fire Department has not submitted the needed information for their July 4th celebration. Mr. Mathers will contact them and remind them that they need to submit each year the necessary paperwork.

The Board approved the facility use at WCMS by the Mount Carroll Fire Department for the July 4th celebration.

The lease with the City of Savanna for the transportation antenna on the Savanna water tower must be renewed. The monthly fee is \$53.00. Mr. Mathers has talked with representatives of Mt. Carroll to determine if an antenna on their water tower would reach around and over the bluffs within the district. The opinion is that it would not.

The annual lease with the City of Savanna to keep an antenna on the Savanna water tower was approved.

Northwestern Illinois Association provides support and services for the northern portion of Illinois to assist with low incident special needs students. There are two positions open on the NIA Board and two candidates running to represent our region.

The Board approved the support of Sarah Willey and Pam Scanlan on the NIA Executive Board.

President Boyd stated that agenda items 10 – I and 10 - J would be tabled with possible action after Closed Session discussion.

The Board entered closed session at 7:32 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 9:08 P.M.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the West Carroll Education Association is to reduce the Flag Corp Stipend from 4% to 2% for the 2009-2010 school year. This assignment is usually outside of the regular school day but the high school schedule allows for instruction and flag corps practice to occur simultaneously. The Association is supportive of this action.

The Flag Corps stipend reduction from 4% to 2% for the 2009 – 2010 school year was approved.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Steve Lansing as EXCEL classroom instructor at WCHS at the end of the 2008 – 2009 school year.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Eunice Rath as school psychologist at the end of the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Accepted the resignation of Dawn Cole as West Carroll High School Freshman Class Sponsor at the end of the 2008 – 2009 school year.

The Board employed Zach Adams as a West Carroll Middle School Science teacher for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Employed Pat Foltz as a West Carroll Middle School Language Arts Teacher for 2009 – 2010 school year.

Anne Burch was employed as a part time (.5) West Carroll High School Language Arts Teacher for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

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The Board employed Anita Stott (Senior Class – 2%), Juanita Holmes (Senior Class – 1%), Stephanie Iben (Junior Class – 4%), Robyn Lamb (Junior Class – 4%), Dawn Cole (Sophomore Class – 3%), and Chandra Paschal (Freshman Class – 3%) as West Carroll High School class sponsors for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Employed Paul Tobin as West Carroll High School Athletic Director for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

The Board approved the transfer of Denise Brotzman as the West Carroll High School Resource Room teacher to the West Carroll High School EXCEL classroom teacher for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.