

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board Briefs
January 15, 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 6:33 P.M.

Administration present: Ashby, Delp, Katzenberger, and Lamb
Members present: Boyd, Highland, Klein, Melhus and Sweeney
Members absent: Foltz and Kelley
Others present: Bill Gengenbach, Mike Nester, and Brad Field

Approved December 18, 2008, Regular Meeting Minutes.
Approved December 18, 2008, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Minutes.
Approved the financial reports and payment of bills as presented.

Public Comments: None
Correspondence: Thank you note from Shelley Falls and the family of Charles E. Spencer
Thank you from Pastor Mike at the Savanna Food Pantry.

Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby, complimented the janitorial crew at the Primary School for working extremely hard over the Christmas break to make the building look amazing. Mrs. Ashby reported that the second set of AIMSWeb testing will begin on January 12th; the data will be used to determine student growth and will also be used when they meet on Friday for the in-service. Report cards were sent home on Wednesday, January 14th.

Intermediate School Principal, Pam Delp, noted that report cards will be sent home next week and thanked everyone for working together to overcome some technology problems to accomplish this task. Mrs. Delp also thanked the WC Education Foundation and the PTO for helping to defray the cost of the 5th grade ski trip to Chestnut Mountain on January 20th. The WCIS Building Spelling Bee will be held on January 23rd. Mrs. Delp thanked Patty Laughlin for chairing the event. The top four spellers will advance to the District Spelling Bee at the Middle School on January 27th.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger, thanked the janitors for their outstanding custodial work over winter break. On Thursday, January 15th the Middle School celebrated the students' second quarter achievements in a school-wide recognition assembly. The 8th grade class trip to Circa 21, a Dinner Theatre in the Quad Cities, is scheduled for January 28th. Mrs. Katzenberger thanked Judy Schreiber for organizing the event and the WC Educational Foundation for assisting in funding the field trip.

High School Principal, Bob Lamb, reported that second semester classes started on January 12th. A Motivational Assembly is scheduled for January 21. The West Carroll Manny's Pizza Shootout will be held on January 24th at the Middle School with teams from Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana participating. Mr. Lamb thanked the Savanna Movie Theater for hosting an Attendance Incentive Party; 106 students attended and the cost was only \$150.00.

The administrators thanked Manny's Pizza for providing lunch for the staff on the Institute Day to be held on Friday, January 16, 2009.

Superintendent Mathers was not able to attend the meeting because of an illness in his family.

President Boyd highlighted some of the items included in the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Boyd thanked the David Bunning family for donating a total of \$7,500.00 to the district. School Board petitions can be filed as of 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 20th. Mr. Boyd also discussed some of the budget expenditures and was happy to report that the Education Fund is at 48.32%. Gas prices have been an important factor for the Transportation Fund. The total of all funds is actually under budget by a small amount.

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President Boyd said he was pleased with the status of the budget and thanked the administration and staff for keeping expenditures within the budget.

Technology Director, Brad Field, updated the Board on several district technology issues and projects. Mr. Field noted that AlertNow was used for the bad weather school closings with almost 90% of numbers receiving calls either live or on an answering machine. He noted that he has also received many positive comments on Edline and will continue to work to improve the success rate for AlertNow.

Superintendent Mathers spent a few hours learning and exploring what the exact request for the Enterprise Zone was as it relates to West Carroll. He spoke with Betty Steinert, Annette Gruhn (County Assessor), and Diane Komiskey (LRA). Key points from the conversations for the Board to consider included:

- The \$181,397 document was an example of what is already being done with the Whiteside County Enterprise Zone.
- The district has not been receiving taxes on the property since 1918 due to being owned by the Federal government.
- The district would only receive a taxable interest when the LRA sells or leases the land to a private investor.
- The district would continue to receive taxes on the land EAV and any increases but not on new improvement. The taxes on the new improvement would be on the seven-year sequence demonstrated in the letter.
- The time frame for clean-up and transfer of Depot land is 2020.
- The abatement period requested is until 2035.
- The tax money abated would be received in General State Aid two years behind. As long as the State has the funding, the district would receive these dollars due to the Hold Harmless provision.
- Currently receiving approximately \$8,000 due to a private lease.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife currently own the access to the waterway. New companies would be able to access railroad transportation.

Advantages

1. Encouragement of growth at the property
2. No growth – No tax loss
3. Allows the Enterprise to recruit new businesses with an incentive.
4. Still can access land EAV growth
5. Current taxes still will be received.

Disadvantages

1. Delay in accessing new EAV growth
2. Two-year wait on GSA increase.

Approved a Resolution authorizing and directing an abatement of a portion of taxes levied on certain property located in the Jo/Carroll Enterprise Zone.

The meeting with the Park District Board to discuss Swimming Lessons that was scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 5:00 P.M. was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Superintendent Mathers would like to schedule the lessons into a 12:00-3:00 P.M. time slot on Friday afternoons for four weeks if the details can be finalized. This arrangement would have the least affect on the educational environment and would keep the prime instructional time in the morning for the young students. Transportation could be maximized by scheduling the sessions back to back. Mr. Mathers recommended hiring a one-half day substitute on those days so the lessons would not interfere with other schedules in the building and would allow the Primary School P.E. staff to assist with supervision at the pool and use their knowledge of the students.

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President Boyd provided a Health, Life Safety Work update and meeting dates as follows:

- Prebid meeting at WCHS on Friday, January 16th at 2:30 P.M.
- Prebid meeting at WCHS on Friday, January 23rd at 1:00 P.M.
- Bid opening at District Office on Friday, February 6th at 1:00 P.M.

Concept 3 has provided the plans and specifications, the applications for building permit, a review set of the project manual, and the press releases for publication. In order to get specific companies to bid that would increase the quality of work, a prebid meeting just on the topic of asbestos was scheduled for January 23rd. The documents required for submission to the Regional Office of Education will be sent this week.

Approved the Second Reading of the proposed Board Policies.

Approved the destruction of the May 7, 2007, Special Meeting Closed Session tape and the May 23, 2007, Regular Meeting Closed Session tape.

Bob Carlile was not able to attend the meeting to present a summary of the 2007-08 audit because of the weather conditions.

Approved the 2007-2008 West Carroll Annual Audit as submitted.

Superintendent Mathers received a Shelter Agreement from Frank Bruscato, with the American Red Cross. Carroll County lost their Red Cross Chapter around 2003. The Freeport Chapter is now the custodial agency for Carroll County. Mr. Bruscato is asking West Carroll C.U.S.D. to make their buildings available in case of an emergency situation. The Agreement calls for the Red Cross to keep liability coverage, have a local contact, and cover any expenses the district incurs as a result of their emergency usage.

Approved the American Red Cross Shelter Agreements.

Emily Bressler, Dan Hartman, and Don Mathey requested permission for overnight field trips. Mrs. Bressler and Becky Titus will be attending the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Music Festival in Peoria on January 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2009. This is an honor for Becky to be selected based on a fall audition to IMEA. The FFA requests are traditional activities that have been included in the district's program. Many of the trips are dependent upon competition.

Approved the Field Trip requests from Emily Bressler, Dan Hartman and Don Mathey as presented.

Mr. Field created bid specifications to secure technology bids in order to keep the hardware current and operating at the peak condition. The purchase price was built into the technology budget as this expense was anticipated as hardware is rotated in the district.

Agreed to let for bids for technology equipment as presented, to determine current market costs.

Entered closed session at 7:30 P.M. for consideration 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.

Board returned to open session at 8:30 P.M.

Approved a maternity leave request from MaLinda Cropper, Special Education Teacher at the WC Primary School.

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The Board authorized Superintendent Mathers to approve two requests to purchase a 4th Personal Day from Kathleen Holmes and Deborah Manninen.

Approved three additional vendors for the West Carroll C.U.S.D. No. 314 403B Plan.

Adjourned at 8:33 P.M.