

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board Briefs
February 24, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314, rescheduled from February 19, 2009, 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, and Lamb,

Members present: Boyd, Highland, Kelley, Klein, Melhus and Sweeney

Members absent: Foltz

Others present: Media, WC Staff, Bob Carlile, Justin Krusey, Laurie Miller, Mike Parrott

Approved January 15, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Approved January 15, 2009, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Minutes.

Approved the financial reports and payment of bills as presented.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: Thank you from the family of Joyce M. Hovorka.

Thank you from the family of Candice Murphy.

High School Principal, Bob Lamb, reported that high school registration for the 2009-2010 school year is going well. This week is FFA Week and many activities are going on at the high school. Mr. Lamb invited Board members to attend the FFA breakfast on Friday in the high school cafeteria. Third Quarter Progress Reports were downloaded on February 20th and the staff at the high school are thinking of purchase orders and scheduling for next year.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger, reported that Varsity Boys' Basketball Regional games are being played at the Middle School this week and are hosted by Eastland. ISAT Testing for grades 6-8 will be held March 2nd through March 6th. Mrs. Katzenberger thanked Mr. Frank Nester, a retired math teacher, for volunteering his time to tutor students and teach Math Test Prep skill during the students' study hall periods. The Middle School will hold an Academic Fair on March 25th from 4:00-6:30 P.M.; the annual Bidy Basketball game is also scheduled for that night at 5:30 P.M.

Intermediate School Principal, Pam Delp, congratulated Olivia Brinkmeier for finishing first place in the WC Intermediate School Spelling Bee. Cameron Ehlers, Kaylee Plattenberger, and Thomas Knight were the other three finalists. Forty Intermediate School students had perfect attendance and sixty-three earned Thunder Honor Roll. Mrs. Delp thanked Jeff Holley and Michelle Konrardy for conducting an STI computer grade book in-service for the Intermediate staff on February 11th. Mrs. Delp also thanked Lisa Wolfe and Pam Watts for planning great activities for the students to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Progress Reports will be sent home on February 25th.

Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby, reported that the Primary School celebrated the 100th day of school on February 5th; there were special prizes for 100 days of attendance and other fun activities. Mrs. Ashby thanked Keta Foltz, Amber Findlay and Brad Field for making the "Rocky" website possible. Rocky was delivered on February 13th and a special unveiling is being planned soon. Lincoln's Birthday was celebrated and the students and teachers are getting ready for ISAT testing. Upcoming events at the Primary School include, the Science Fair on March 12th; the Book Fair is scheduled for March 23 -27; and Open House will be held on March 26th.

Superintendent Mathers highlighted some of the items included in Brad Field's Technology Report. Included in the report were updates on Edline and AlertNOW. Both programs are continually updated as information from the staff and students' families is received. Mr. Field thanked Anita Stott at the high school for continuing to be an incredible help in this effort.

Superintendent Mathers provided an updated attendance report and noted that the district attendance rate is at 94.97 per cent. Quality Circle notes were included in Mr. Mathers' report; he noted that interest was expressed in having a *Freshman Registration Night* to invite parents and students in to discuss the class requirements. Mr. Mathers was happy to report that the old chemicals that have been stored at the Intermediate School have been removed. Sauk Valley Community College has invited West Carroll to their *Dual Credit Forum* to be held on March 31, 2009, at 8:30 A.M to 2:30 P.M.; the event will provide an opportunity for those who attend to actively participate in discussion on dual credit programs. Superintendent Mathers also reminded Board Members that the Northwest Division Spring Conference and Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 5:00 P.M. at the Eastland High School in Lanark, Illinois.

Robert Carlile provided information regarding the revised 2007-2008 audit. The only change in the new copy was the letter on page 3. Mr. Carlile explained that all the figures in the audit remained unchanged. The original opinion letter failed to indicate an internal control issue for the West Carroll District. In general terms, it summarizes that the WC School District does not have a CPA or business director preparing their financial reports. This is a statement that is included in all small districts' audits. In this area, only Freeport would not see this reference due to having a full time business director. Also emphasized was the Financial Profile Summary that was listed in the annual Financial Report. The district's rating increased to 3.25 (2008) from 2.00 (2007). That resulted in a rating change from "Watch" to "Review".

Approved the 2007-2008 revised audit.

Two additional companies have signed the district's Service Provider Agreement to be eligible for employee deductions; Mass Mutual and 403B ASP. This raises the list to eleven (11).

Approved Mass Mutual and 403B ASP as two additional vendors for the West Carroll C.U.S.D. No. 314, 403B Plan.

Superintendent Mathers reported that representatives from the WC School District met with the Savanna Park District on January 27, 2009. The finalization of details and parental notification for the pilot swimming program for West Carroll 3rd graders were discussed. Mr. Mathers believes there is a good foundation in place to initiate a pilot program for the lessons. By doing four sessions this spring, an evaluation could be conducted to see if the district wants to proceed forward during the 2009-2010 school year. The costs are minimal for the four weeks; \$445.44. Brady Knop is also interested in assisting in the instruction. The substitute would now cover a class at WCHS instead of WCPS.

Bids for the Health, Life Safety work were opened on February 6, 2009. The estimated fund balance in Fire Prevention and Safety is \$1,472,358. The 2008 levy should generate an additional \$61,811 for a total of \$1,534,169. \$29,000 was paid from HLS funds in August, 2008 to do the boiler work. The low bid for the asbestos removal came in at \$75,600. The low bid for the Health, Life Safety work was \$1,224,500. Because of the significant difference in Alternate #4, Superintendent Mathers recommended contacting one of the other bidders and do that as a separate project. If this can be accomplished, the total expenditure on the project would be:

Asbestos	\$ 75,600.00	Champion Environmental Service
HLS	1,206,000.00	Stenstrom General Contractors
Alternate #4	5,700.00	
Architect fees (7.5%)	<u>102,984.00</u>	
Total	\$1,390,284.00	

This would leave approximately \$121,000.00 in the Fire Prevention & Safety Fund.

Approved the Asbestos Removal bid from Champion Environmental Service and the Health, Life Safety bid from Stenstrom General Contractors, minus Alternate bid #4 on the Life Safety Work as presented.

Superintendent Mathers reported that the deadline for filing petitions to run for the West Carroll Board of Education vacancies was Monday, January 26, 2009. This deadline was to ensure the candidate's name would be on the ballot. The deadline to run as a write-in candidate was February 5, 2009.

The following are the candidates on the ballot for the various districts:

District # 1	-	Beverly Kilpatrick
District # 3	-	John Charles Brigham
District # 6	-	Michael D. Highland
District # 7	-	No Name

Mr. Steve Kelley and Mr. Tim Atherton have filed as write-in candidates for District #7. The election judges are not obligated to inform voters of write-in candidates unless the voters ask. Any votes for additional candidates are not valid. The April 16, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting is within the 10-day limit to canvas the votes.

Approved the destruction of the June 18, 2007, Regular Meeting Closed Session tape.

Laurie Miller and Mike Parrott of Miller & Buettner, presented details for continuing with them as our broker of record. Superintendent Mathers wants to have all the details in place as plans are made for accepting bids for the health insurance for the district employees,

Mr. Lamb presented a report on the progress of the committee that evaluated the grading scales currently used in the district. Mr. Lamb presented the committee's recommendation to align the district grading scale in grades 3-12. Various details were discussed but alignment was the most critical to make sure that an "A" means the same thing in all of the district classes. Instead of having multiple scales entered into STI, the student management system, there would now be only one.

Approved the 2009-2010 District Grading Scale as the First Reading.

Superintendent Mathers reported that the teachers have been exploring the options of textbooks available on the market for math instruction. During the process they were asked to evaluate the series as it compared to The Illinois Learning Standards, West Carroll's district objectives, and gaps identified in the item analysis from ISAT results. The process generated good thoughts of how they could work together to share ideas, discuss annual results, and provide the best possible instruction for the students.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger led the process and presented the administrative recommendation. The funding plan is threefold; \$26,960 from the Illinois State Textbook Loan, \$46,300 from the Education Fund that was saved by rewriting the NCLB grant, and the annual funds already planned for K-3 annual consumables.

Approved the 4-12 Grade Math Textbook Adoption for the 2009-2010 school year to align the West Carroll Curriculum.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger presented a recommendation to schedule the WCMS Promotional Program on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. Under the current use of snow days, the district's last day of attendance will be Friday, May 29th.

Approved Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. as the date and time for the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony as First Reading.

Superintendent Mathers informed the Board that Christine Davis, the director of Northwest Special Education, submitted her resignation from the position on Wednesday, February 11, 2009. A search committee has already been appointed to put a plan in place to identify her replacement. Sheila Haman tendered her ERO retirement letter in December, 2008. This is significant to West Carroll because as a member of the Special Education Cooperative, the district will pay a portion of the ERO penalty of \$75,000. The district's portion which is due on July 1, 2009, will be approximately \$9,800.

Superintendent Mathers reminded Board of Education members that they are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests annually to confirm they do not have a conflict of interest in the business functions of the district.

Due to outstanding bond issues, the district is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission to complete disclosure statements. This is a requirement by the SEC on an annual basis for investors to be able to access current financial information at any time. William and Blair is offering to complete this for West Carroll C.U.S.D. #314 for a discounted price of \$1,250.00. They would be acting as the dissemination agent for the district. In past years this process was completed by Hutchinson and Shockey.

Approved William & Blair to complete the disclosure statements as required by the SEC.

Approved an overnight trip to play a softball tournament in Aledo.

Entered closed session at 8:42 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 10:24 P.M.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Scott Schneider as a West Carroll Intermediate School Teacher, effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year and to allow Mr. Schneider to use the Teacher Retirement Option, Article XVI, Section 16.01 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, and to grant him twenty-five (25) additional days of sick leave.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Kathleen Prins as a West Carroll Primary School Teacher, effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year and to allow Mrs. Prins to use the Teacher Retirement Option, Article XVI, Section 16.01 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Cynthia VanZuiden as a West Carroll Primary School Teacher, effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year and to allow Mrs. VanZuiden to use the Teacher Retirement Option, Article XVI, Section 16.01 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Employed Dave Degarmo as Assistant High School Track Coach (7.5% stipend).

Employed Phil Worden as an Assistant High School Baseball Coach pending the approval of his substitute teaching license by the Regional Office of Education.

Agreed to allow Justin Eissens to be a Volunteer High School Baseball Coach pending the approval of his substitute teaching license by the Regional Office of Education.

Agreed to allow Dawn Cole to be a Volunteer High School Softball Coach, pending her completion of the ASEP.

Adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

