

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board Briefs
September 18, 2008**

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: Mathers, Lamb, Burkholder, Katzenberger, Delp

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

Members absent: Foltz

Others present: West Carroll Staff and Media

The West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314 Public Hearing for the School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, was called to order at 6:31 P.M. by President Boyd.

Superintendent Mathers presented information regarding the WC District Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

President Boyd called for any questions from the public or members of the Board of Education. There were no questions.

President Boyd called for written comment. There were no written comments.

Hearing closed at 6:33 P.M.

Approved August 21, 2008, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Approved August 21, 2008, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Minutes.

Approved the financial reports and payment of bills as presented.

Public comments: none

Correspondence: Superintendent Mathers received a letter from Gary and Susan Foltz, respectfully asking the Board of Education to consider holding the 2009 West Carroll High School Graduation Ceremony at the Middle School in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. High School Principal, Bob Lamb, will investigate the proposal and the issues involved and make a recommendation to the Board at a future Board of Education Meeting.

Intermediate School Principal, Pam Delp, reported that the West Carroll Intermediate School's annual Open House was held on Tuesday, September 9th. Mrs. Delp said it was a busy night and a great opportunity for teachers and parents to meet and make a connection; 74% of the students were represented. The Book Fair Family Night was held in the Library/Media Center during the Open House and was packed the entire evening. Signup for Beginning Band was also held during Open House, with fifty-three Fifth Graders signed up at this time. Mrs. Delp has also been very busy attending Special Education staffings and dealing with teacher and parent concerns since the beginning of the school year.

High School Principal, Bob Lamb, reported that a Teachers' Institute Day is set for September 22nd, with various staff meetings scheduled throughout the day. Mr. Lamb shared an email he received from the parent of a Pecatonica football player, expressing his appreciation for the way the public address announcer handled two rough losses against the Pecatonica teams. Mr. Lamb also informed the Board that he will begin working on a policy that will set a criteria for squad limits for all sports.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger, reported that Open House at the Middle School is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. The 8th Grade Class Trip to Springfield on September 12th, was a success. Market Day orders are due on September 30th. Mrs. Katzenberger thanked Diane Daggert and Deb Myers for coordinating the Market Day fundraiser for the past three years. Deb Manninen is the new chairwoman and Jodi Purlee will assist with the project.

Mrs. Katzenberger introduced Paul Kaczmarek and asked him to address the Board as a member of the West Carroll Middle School Attendance Incentive Committee regarding a Fund Raising Proposal. Shaw's Food Pride in Mt. Carroll would like to help the Middle School raise money. Every Wednesday anyone who shops at Shaw's should save their receipts and send them to the Middle School. The Middle School Advanced Math Class would be responsible for the collection of the receipts and tabulating the percentages the Middle School will receive as a fund raiser. Shaw's will then write a check to the Middle School. Board Members agreed this would be a good project to help raise money for Attendance Incentives for the Middle School students.

Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby was attending a presentation at the Primary School by author, Steven Layne. Mrs. Ashby's report was included in the Board Packets.

Brad Field, Technology Director, updated the Board on several technology issues that he has been working on since the beginning of the new school year and the progress that has been made so far. Mr. Field hopes to have both Edline, the new home access program, and AlertNOW, the new rapid contact service, operational in October.

Superintendent Mathers' report included the following information:

- District In service is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2008
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held October 22 – 24, 2008
- West Carroll Education Foundation will meet on October 21, 2008
- Summer Painting Report
- IASA Northwest Division Dinner Meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2008 at Sterling Unit #5
- Flu Shots will be given in October
- Attendance Report

Board Committee Reports – PRESS: Superintendent Mathers will be setting a date with Board Members, David Boyd and Mike Highland, to review PRESS recommendations on Board Policy. Mr. Mathers invited any other Board Members to help with the project if they are interested.

Mike Highland, Dennis Foltz, Jeanette Ashby, Superintendent Mathers, LaMoine Aude, and a West Carroll Physical Education Teacher, will attend a meeting with the Savanna Park District, on Wednesday, September 24th at 4:00 P.M. at the WC Primary School, to discuss preliminary details regarding swimming classes for West Carroll students

Renee Enloe organized an opportunity for Sixth Grade girls to experience volleyball for the fall, 2008 season. Twenty-seven athletes began practice on Monday, September 8, 2008. Games are being organized so a variety of experiences can be completed.

Superintendent Mathers updated the Board on Health/Life/Safety work. There are some adjustments that need to be made on the boiler at the WCHS. George Kruse is coordinating the efforts with Dan McCurdy, from AMSCO. Commercial Refrigeration should have all the items completed by the end of the week.

Approved the destruction of the West Carroll Board of Education Closed Session Meeting tape from the January 15, 2007, Regular Meeting.

Approved the West Carroll C.U.S.D. No. 314, Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Approved the Application for Recognition of Schools for the WCHS, WCMS, WCIS, and WCPS, for 2008-2009.

Superintendent Mathers has been working with the business office staff and building principals to revise some forms used for requesting leave and documenting staff absences. The process will allow the district office to know prior to a pre-arranged absence and assist in getting documentation after the absence.

Superintendent Mathers provided a survey of the surrounding school districts of what is paid to a substitute teacher. The survey showed that West Carroll's rate of \$75 is comparable to the surrounding districts. The difference is the TRS benefit of 11.3%. Options included:

Option A: Staying at the \$75 per date rate without the TRS benefit.
(District cost: \$75.91)

Option B: Raise the daily rate to \$85 without the TRS benefit.
(District cost: \$86.03)

Option C: Stay at \$75 per day and have the district pay the TRS benefit on eligible teachers.
(District cost: \$83.48).

West Carroll has not had a problem getting substitutes, but volume is an issue. In FY 08, the district obligated TRS payments on 60% of the substitutes. The district could leave the daily rate at \$75 and change the TRS payment to be "in addition" to the daily rate. Using FY 08 calculations, this would be an additional \$5,700. Raising the rate to \$85 without the TRS benefit would cost the district \$14,000. Board Members decided to maintain the current rate of pay for substitute teachers at \$75.00 per day.

Approved the First Reading on the West Carroll C.U.S.D. No. 314 Risk Management Plan, with the auditor's recommended percentages.

The district's current Workmen's Compensation Insurance coverage will expire on December 1, 2008. Superintendent Mathers would like to seek competitive bids for renewal and has already requested loss run numbers from the district's past insurance companies. He would like to discuss the rating of "A-" or better.

Authorized Superintendent Mathers to seek bids for Worker's Compensation Insurance, with a minimum Best Rating of "A -" or better.

The Principals have been reviewing their Safety Crisis Plans for their buildings which are an annual requirement by ISBE. Peter Smith, a Northwest Special Education Social Worker, who is also an Administrative Intern at the Middle School, presented a special format for the Board to consider that could be used in each West Carroll Building.

Approved the Safety Crisis Plan review documents.

Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby, entered the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Jo Carroll Electric initially provided the idea to sub meter the electric use by the swimming pool. Superintendent Mathers has received one quote from Howard Herrell for \$1,900. This option would require the district to bill the Savanna Park District each month off a consistent meter reading.

A motion to approve the low bid of \$1,120.00 from MARX Electric to install an electric sub meter at the WC High School to separate electric costs from the Savanna Park District Pool failed.

Approved the low bid of \$1,120.00 from MARX Electric to install an electric sub meter at the WC High School to separate electric costs from the Savanna Park District Pool, pending the completion of Superintendent Mathers checking on all liability questions to ensure that the district is at no additional risk.

Entered closed session at 8:01 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; the Purchase or lease of real property or setting of a price for sale or lease of district property; and Student discipline cases.

Board returned to open session at 8:45 P.M.

Approved the employment of Terry Bearsley to transport Tabitha Bearsley to East Coloma.

Approved the employment of Mary Rossow as a part time Individual Aide at the WC Primary School for the 2008-2009 school year.

Approved the employment of Marlena Kerr as a full time Individual Aide at the West Carroll Middle School for the 2008-2009 school year.

Agreed to allow Carissa Ashby to be a Volunteer High School Cheerleading Coach for the 2008-2009 school year, pending her completion of all proper certification requirements.

Agreed to allow Ashley Reed to be a Volunteer High School Volleyball and Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2008-2009 school year, pending her completion of all proper certification requirements.

Agreed to allow Art Sipe to be a Volunteer High School Softball Coach for the 2008-2009 school year, pending his completion of all proper certification requirements.

Approved a request from WC Primary School Resource Teacher, Darci Paisley, to use sick days for a maternity leave in December.

Approved a request from WC High School Instrumental Music Teacher, Emily Bressler, to use sick days for a maternity leave next Spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.