

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Board Briefs  
October 16, 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, Ashby  
Members present: Boyd, Foltz, Highland, Kelley, Klein, Melhus and Sweeney  
Others present: West Carroll Staff, Parents and Media

Approved September 18, 2008, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Approved September 18, 2008, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Minutes.

Approved the financial reports and payment of bills as presented.

Correspondence:

Thank you from the "Family of Randy VanZuiden".

Thank you from the Salvation Army.

Letter from Kathryn Boyd asking the Board to consider holding the 2009 High School Graduation ceremony at the West Carroll Middle School.

Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby, thanked everyone who helped with Fire Prevention Week this past week. Mrs. Ashby also thanked the Artist Cooperative of Savanna for their donation towards the West Carroll Elementary Art Department. Mrs. Ashby also noted that the Primary School received a check for \$228.79 from Target as part of Target's *Take Charge of Education Program*. When parents or teachers use their Target card, Target donates 1% of their purchases to their designated school. Mrs. Ashby thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the IPA Convention on October 6 – 7.

High School Principal, Bob Lamb, updated the Board on the PSAT, PLAN and ASVAB testing for the high school students. Mr. Lamb also noted that Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 22, 23 and 24. WC High School will host the Volleyball Regionals October 30th through November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lamb reported that after discussing the location for the 2009 graduation ceremony with the senior class officers, the unanimous feeling was that the class would like to hold graduation at the high school outside on the football field. Mr. Lamb is working on clarifying the policy for cutting the number of participants for high school sports. He also hopes to have a display mounted in the high school to honor the West Carroll State Scholars.

Assistant High School Principal, Monica Burkholder, added that she feels the atmosphere and moral is really good and there are many positive things happening at the high school.

Middle School Principal, Julie Katzenberger, congratulated the Middle School kitchen staff for scoring 99% on the State Sanitation Inspection test. Mrs. Katzenberger thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the IPA Convention in Peoria on October 6 and 7. She also thanked the volleyball coaches for their time and dedication this year and congratulated the Student Council and Mr. Timm for raising \$272.00 as well as a large amount of items for the Haiti Supply Drive. Mrs. Katzenberger reminded everyone to shop Shaw's IGA on Wednesdays and turn their receipts in to the West Carroll Middle School. Shaw's will donate 2% of all receipts to the Middle School; the money will be used for attendance incentives.

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Shelley Shekleton, a kindergarten teacher at WCPS, and Julie Bickelhaupt, a WCPS parent, addressed the Board. They are concerned because second and third graders do not get a recess in the afternoon.

Technology Director, Brad Field, updated the Board on several technology issues. The IT Department has been focusing on the AlertNow and Edline systems. The initial test for AlertNow went out to all the students and the Business Office and Mr. Field is correcting the problem that prevented the rest of the West Carroll staff from receiving the message. Edline is moving forward and letters will be sent home with the students' report cards.

Superintendent Mathers provided a Uniform Rotation Chart and a Textbook List for the Board's information. A new Bus Incident Report Form was also included in the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Mathers informed the Board that Laurie Gungel, the Director of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation, is willing to create a pamphlet for the school district that would highlight current information and would be available to the public; area realtors will cover the cost to print the pamphlet. Free and Reduced numbers were included in the report and also additional information regarding the 1% Local Option Sales Tax.

Foltz left the meeting at 7:35 P.M

Superintendent Mathers presented the second reading of the Risk Management Plan that is required for the expenditure of tort funds. The school district's attorney, HLERK, shared the information that tort funds can only be used for salary, not benefits. Transportation continues to be listed at zero percent so the expenses can be claimed for reimbursement.

Approved the Risk Management Plan for the West Carroll C.U.S.D. #314.

Approved the destruction of the West Carroll Board of Education Closed Session tapes from the February 19, 2007, Special Meeting and the February 19, 2007, Regular Meeting.

The principals gave a presentation on the district's test scores. It demonstrated the current levels of achievement from Spring, 2008. Details from the No Child Left Behind legislation were shared to assist in communicating the regulations that are required for a school district. Specific goals for the buildings that will be incorporated into the 2009 District Improvement Plan were discussed. The District Improvement Plan is a new requirement as of January 1, 2009.

Superintendent Mathers announced that every year the district needs to make available a report card as issued by the State of Illinois. It is a snapshot of each building and the district as a whole in a variety of areas. It publicizes how the district achieved on the State Assessments and also provides demographic information on the district and the schools. The report cards will be available in each of the district's buildings. They will also be displayed at Parent-Teacher Conferences for visitors who want a copy. Arrangements are being made to have a link on the district website also.

Superintendent Mathers thought it would be good to provide a quick review of how the budget is advancing after one quarter. As a district, great effort is being displayed to hold the line on expenditures through contract negotiations, competitive bidding and maximizing resources. The total of all funds shows the district is over budget by 2%. The largest amount of money leading to that result is due to expenditures in transportation (4 buses), Bond & Interest, Operations & Maintenance, and Health, Life Safety.

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Superintendent Mathers reminded everyone that there are four Board seats up for election in April, 2009: They are: Mr. Dennis Foltz, Mr. Mike Melhus, Mr. Mike Highland and Mr. Steve Kelley. Prospective members can start circulating petitions as of October 28, 2008.

Mr. Mathers discussed what it means to be a Board of Education member:

- Represent the citizens of the community and the students who attend school.
- You work together to impact policies, procedures, and local governance.
- Individually you can not take action, but as a Board you set goals for the district and transact the business of the district.
- Be good communicators who look at all sides of a topic.
- A person who wants to gain additional knowledge in the purpose of the schools, the organization, school finances, state laws of government and Board procedures.

The football storage shed built by the West Carroll Youth Football Association at the West Carroll Middle School is now completed. A Bill of Sale document has been prepared and will allow for a clean transfer between the two organizations and will demonstrate ownership by the district. President Boyd thanked the Youth Football Association for this generous donation.

Superintendent Mathers provided an update regarding the Mt. Carroll Water Tower. Mt. Carroll Mayor, Carl Bates, is working with the City's Attorney to update the documents to transfer ownership on the plot of land where the tower is being built. He agreed to allow the district to install antennae or communication devices in the future at no cost to the district. This will be included in the documents. The district also needs to secure a plat of the land to show the piping in case of future expansion.

Mike Highland and representatives of the West Carroll District and the Savanna Park District met on September 24, 2008, to discuss the details about offering swimming lessons to third graders. Two of the next steps discussed were a survey of interest and scheduling issues. Mrs. Ashby will provide details on the scheduling issue. Mr. Aude is running figures for transportation. Superintendent Mathers will continue to develop the details for swimming lessons and bring it back for Board review.

Entered closed session at 8:49 P.M. consideration of the Appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees.

Returned to open session at 9:08 P.M.

Accepted Steve Yenney's resignation as District Groundskeeper, with regret, effective October 31, 2008.

Accepted Brady Knop's resignation as Assistant Track Coach.

Accepted Dennis McFadden's resignation as Varsity Baseball Coach.

Employed Bryan Kamper as High School Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2008-09 school year.

Agreed to allow Jeremy Castro, Brady Knop, Chris Simcox, Dan Hartman, Chip Colgan, Kevin Powers, Dan Nevills, and Tony Jackson to be Volunteer High School Wrestling Coaches.

Agreed to allow Elliot Mills and Wade McIntyre to be Volunteer High School Wrestling Coaches, pending their completion of all proper certification requirements.

Adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

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Template: C:\Documents and Settings\jstayner\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: August 21, 2008  
Subject:  
Author: lspencer  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 10/20/2008 9:05:00 AM  
Change Number: 21  
Last Saved On: 10/23/2008 10:41:00 AM  
Last Saved By: lspencer  
Total Editing Time: 277 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 10/28/2008 10:40:00 AM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 3  
Number of Words: 1,491 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 8,504 (approx.)