

**West Carroll Regular Board of Education Meeting
Board Briefs
December 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 6:15 P.M.

Administration present: Superintendent Mathers

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

Members absent: Foltz

Others present: Bill Gengenbach, Mike Nester, John Swiech, and Don Enloe

The West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314 Public Hearing of Truth in Taxation was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by President Boyd.

Superintendent Mathers presented the Tax Levy Resolution.

President Boyd called for any questions or written comments. There were none.

Closed the Hearing at 6:21 P.M.

Approved November 13, 2008, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Approved November 13, 2008, Regular Meeting, Closed Session Minutes.

Approved the financial reports and payment of bills as presented.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: Superintendent Mathers said the District has received many Christmas cards.

Superintendent Mathers was happy to report that Mrs. Delp had just informed him that the WC Intermediate School has received word that they are the recipients of a \$10,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant will be used to strengthen and integrate the 5th grade science curriculum to meet state standards; students will improve scientific literacy by studying local ecosystems and how to become better stewards of their refuge.

Written reports from the Principals were included in the Board Packets.

Superintendent Mathers reported on several items of interest from the Area Vocational Center and updated the Board on the attendance at each of the West Carroll buildings. Quality Circle notes were included in the Superintendent's report and also information from the Insurance Meeting with Miller & Buettner, held on December 2, 2008, at the District Office.

Approved the destruction of the West Carroll Board of Education Closed Session tape from the April 16, 2007, Regular Meeting.

Approved the 2008 West Carroll C.U.S.D. No. 314 Tax Levy as presented.

Superintendent Mathers presented information regarding the District's 403B Plan. Six companies agreed to the district's Service Provider Agreement; AIG, Ameriprise, Horace Mann, Pekin, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and USAA. Every company but USAA has set up a presentation in early January to inform employees of the options available. Additions to the documents this month are the Salary Reduction Agreement and an Eligibility Notice. Employees who already invested with these companies did not see a discontinuation of their deductions. On Friday, December 12, 2008, the IRS moved to allow districts until December 31, 2009, to initiate the new regulations. If a company chooses to delay, they would have to prove they followed the new regulations upon review.

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Approved the Second Reading of the West Carroll C.U.S.D. No. 314, 403B Plan with the six vendors as listed.

The Second Reading of the District Improvement Plan was held. The documents will be submitted through the Interactive Illinois Report Card website (iire.niu.edu) to the Illinois State Board of Education to meet the January 1, 2009, deadline. The process will allow West Carroll to use these as "working documents" as the district acquires annual achievement scores. The building principals worked together to evaluate building and district results to put a K-12 plan in place to address areas of concern.

Approved the Second Reading of the District Improvement Plan.

The Second Reading of the Truancy Protocol was held. At the November Board of Education meeting the Board discussed how the document was developed and that it really did not change the procedures currently being applied in the district. President Boyd asked how and where the district would use the document. Superintendent Mathers recommended that the district use the document as Administrative Procedures in connection with Board Policy 7.70; Attendance and Truancy

Approved the Second Reading of the Truancy Protocol as Administrative Procedure for Board Policy 7.70; Attendance and Truancy.

Superintendent Mathers informed the Board that there is overwhelming support for the school district to provide swimming lessons to 3rd graders as part of their physical education curriculum. Discussion was held on whether to continue forward with a plan for the swimming lessons. Mr. Mathers suggested a monetary plan for transportation costs, a scheduling plan from WCPS, and a meeting with the Park District to confirm the lessons are free. Mr. Mathers will work with Primary School Principal, Jeanette Ashby, on a proposal for the program.

Don Enloe, representing the Sports Booster Club, asked the Board for permission to install a Raynor DuraCoil service door at WCHS in the concession stand outside the gym doors. It would provide a more secure framework for the area. District Food Services Director, Cindy Weems, has worked with them on this proposal as she investigates incorporating more ala carte options for the cafeteria as a revenue source. The new door will offer better security for all the items the boosters store between activity dates. The installation will be completed using booster club volunteers. The support structure will be constructed by Harry Krahn and George Kruse.

Agreed to allow the Sports Boosters to install a new door on the WCHS concession stand.

On October 27, 2008, district representatives met with representatives to begin planning for the Health, Life Safety Work to be completed during the summer of 2009. Work will be completed at WCHS, WCMS, and WCPS upon acceptance of the bids. The amendment and bonds for this project have already been executed. A plan for the summer will need to be developed since major parts of the WCHS building will be shut down or disturbed. The work will affect summer camps, workouts, and office operations.

Agreed to let for bids for the Health, Life Safety Work to be completed in the summer of 2009.

The First Reading of Board Policies was held.

Approved the Board Policies as the First Reading.

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Superintendent Mathers updated the Board regarding a request from the Jo-Carroll Enterprise Zone. In May, 2008, the Board discussed the topic of granting an Enterprise Zone request from Betty Steinert on 4714 acres at the former Savanna Army Depot. It was put on hold to see what River Ridge decided to do as a Board action to be consistent. At the end of October, 2008, Mr. Mathers received a letter from Betty Steinert asking again for an abatement of taxes for the Jo-Carroll Enterprise Zone. River Ridge has already taken action to approve this request. In the document, the analysis assumes the district would trade local taxes for additional state aid. Jim Mathis (ISBE) in charge of disbursements confirmed this would probably be the case but it would take two years for the state to catch up. The district would need to make up \$181,000 per year in the interim. No action was taken. The Board asked Superintendent Mathers to contact Betty Steinert to see if she could attend the January meeting and provide more information and answer questions.

Accepted the bid from Brian Prowant for the amount of \$655.00 each, for the purchase of two West Carroll busses.

Accepted the bid from the Savanna Historical Society for the amount of \$50.00 to purchase a stove from the WCHS outside concession stand.

Entered closed session at 7:25 P.M. for consideration the Appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees; 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 8:50 P.M.

Approved the employment of Thomas Robbe as a part time Janitor at the West Carroll Primary School for three (3) hours per day.

Adjourned at 8:52 P.M.