

**West Carroll Board of Education
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314 was held at the West Carroll Intermediate Library/Media Center, 801 South Street, Thomson, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order by President Highland at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jerry Anderson; Tim Atherton; John Brigham; Mike Highland; Bev Kilpatrick; Mark Klein

Member Absent: Dawn Rath (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)

Administration: Superintendent Craig Mathers; Principals Robert Lamb; Monica Burkholder; Julie Katzenberger; Jeanette Ashby. Special Education/Preschool Director Pam Delp was absent.

Others present: Brad Field, Don Enloe, Media (Bob Watson, Bill Gengenbach, Samantha Pidde, Michael Miller)

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from the April 21, 2011; Regular Meeting
- Minutes from the April 21, 2011; Regular Meeting, closed session
- Minutes from the May 12, 2011; Special Meeting
- Minutes from the May 12, 2011; Special Meeting, closed session
- Minutes from the May 18, 2011; Special Meeting
- Minutes from the May 18, 2011; Special Meeting, closed session
- Financial Reports, payment of bills, activity accounts, and FRIS report
- Destruction of closed session tape from the Regular meeting July 7, 2009 (1 tape)

The Board of Education approved the consent agenda as presented.

Public Comments

None

Correspondence

Thank you notes from the families of Charles Puls and Doris Grim; thank you from Quality Child Care.

Administrative Reports

Brad Field, Technology Director, reported that the work orders are slow which is usual for this time of the year. The second cart for the mobile lab at the high school has arrived and will be configured over the summer. With the two carts there will be 32 wireless work stations available at the high school. Field has begun researching a One-to-One Computing Initiative and there is a plan to send several staff members to a conference in July regarding the initiative. He will have a detailed report and/or proposal for the Board by the September meeting.

Jeanette Ashby, Primary and Intermediate Principal, reported that 85 students have signed-up for summer school. Summer school is June 6 through June 30. The 4th grade class raised over \$2,700 from a Bike-a-thon and donated the funds to the Honor Flights. The students who raised the most money and their teachers were invited by Gary Metivier to come to the Quad City Airport and welcome the Veterans home from their Honor Flight. There will be a short story on the 10:00 news program this evening. Mrs. Ashby, on behalf of the Primary and Intermediate School staff, expressed that all thoughts and prayers are with Jen Goss, 3rd grade teacher. Mrs. Ashby thanked the Board for

everything this school year and stated all staff is getting excited about next school year. The final AIMSweb screening was completed and a report will be available to show the tremendous progress of the students.

Julie Katzenberger, Middle School Principal, thanked Board members for attending the 8th grade promotion ceremony. Ninety-six students will start as freshmen in the fall. One hundred and eight 5th graders visited and toured the Middle School getting ready for 6th grade. Six Middle School staff were congratulated for using no sick days during the year. Eighteen students were awarded with lunch and bowling for having perfect attendance.

Robert Lamb, High School Principal, reported that students are finishing semester testing. Summer driver's education will begin May 25 with twenty-five students participating. Lamb thanked Board members for attending graduation ceremonies. The electronic sign board at the high school has been installed and started working May 1st. He thanked all contributors for making this possible. The FFA has made wooden signs for the gymnasium and the Art Department painted them. The signs depict each member school of the athletic conference. A West Carroll Thunder banner has been installed to help dress up the building.

Monica Burkholder, Assistant Principal, congratulated all the great graduates and thought the ceremony went very well. Superintendent Mathers stated a lot of work goes into orchestrating the promotion and graduation ceremonies. He has heard many positive comments from the community. He congratulated the administration on a job well done.

Craig Mathers, Superintendent, reported this is the second month in a row that the Middle School had the highest attendance rate. The district will be just under 95% for the entire year. Mr. Mathers shared Transition Meeting notes with the Board. There is a lot to coordinate in the moving of the Intermediate School and preschools. A suggestion from Quality Circle is that teachers want to start informational retirement meetings to make sure they have everything in line when they are ready to retire. The district has received official notification from ISBE that the Three Year Technology Plan has been approved. Mr. Mathers wrote a letter to Representative Jim Sacia about the state cutting additional funding to student transportation. Representative Sacia responded that cutting those funds had been dropped and Mr. Mathers said the funding rate for transportation had been returned to the previous level of funding. A program from the WC High School Scholastic Achievement Banquet was shared with members of the Board. Ninety-five members of the Senior Class received awards and scholarships in the amount of approximately \$140,000. A letter was received from the Chadwick/Milledgeville School District thanking Mr. Mathers for sharing the service of one of West Carroll's counselors to help students and staff with the sudden loss of a staff member. Several legislative reports and the monthly report from HLERK were shared. Superintendent Mathers informed the Board that the district still has not received a final renewal cost for health insurance. Premium rates must be approved prior to June 10 so the correct premium deductions can be made through payroll for July. Miller Buettner & Parrott are working with two companies with different quotes. The first quote was a 14% increase. It is hoped they will be able to negotiate a lower rate. It will be necessary to have a special meeting to approve the insurance.

Board Committee Reports

Board members received exit notes from the May 3, 2011 meeting of the Transportation Committee. They reviewed the Central States Bus lease and the district's fleet of vehicles.

Old Business

Property and Causality Insurance Bids

The district received bids from five companies (four different brokers) ranging in cost from \$47,612 - \$60,702. The high bid from Prairie State Insurance Cooperative includes significantly more coverage that is required by their cooperative which also requires a 3-year commitment. The low bid from Trissel Graham & Toole was Argonaut Insurance. They are a company that is just trying to get into the Illinois market. Mr. Mathers spoke with a couple of school districts from Ohio for references. The second lowest bid was from Selective Insurance, the current district carrier. They do not offer coverage for treasurer's bond but earthquake coverage is included in their base premium as it was last year. Atherton asked about the different ratings from the companies. After discussion it was decided the low bid would not be accepted due to there being no references from any Illinois schools and having a lower rating than the district's current carrier.

The Board accepted the bid presented by Lockhart and Law Insurance Agency (Selective Insurance) for FY2012.

The Board accepted the bid presented by Trissel Graham & Toole for the FY2012 coverage of the treasurer's bond.

Board Policy Updates; PRESS Issue 75

PRESS Issue 75 is submitted for the second reading of changes to board policies. Staff will receive a summary sheet on key changes to keep them informed and current on board policy.

Board members approved and adopted the recommended Board policy updates from PRESS Issue 75.

New Business

West Carroll Sports Boosters

Don Enloe, West Carroll All Sports Boosters, presented the Board with a list of the equipment, materials/supplies, and camps their organization has supported. The organization does all that it can do for West Carroll athletes to make them look and play better. Boosters are sponsoring team summer camps in the amount of \$8,000 and individual camps in the amount of \$3,000. Athletes apply for the opportunity to attend the individual activities. The number of Booster members was very low and there has been a resurgence of numbers and new officers have been elected. The 20th Annual Al Cini Golf Tournament will be held very soon. Anderson thanked Enloe for all of his time spent in keeping the Boosters alive and going. Highland stated the Booster Club is a real asset to the district and the students appreciate all that they do.

Haunted Forest in October 2011

Merle Long informed the Board that this will be the fifth year for the Haunted Forest. They have raised over \$10,000 and accommodated over 1,000 people during these events. They have a trail on city property that they take three wagons of 25-26 people on. The volunteer firemen have had problems, the last couple of years, with water due to flooding in the area they use for the activity. They would

like to have an alternative route available so they would still be able to run the tours if the main route is too wet. They would like to gain approval to use school property behind the Primary School and County Housing Authority apartments. They propose to have a volunteer make a figure eight or big "S" trail and would use this alternate route only if they are flooded out from the lower trail. There would be no cost to the district. They carry their own liability insurance. They will work with the

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superintendent to create the plan. Most of the money they raise is given back to the community. They would also like to get some help from organizations at the high school. This would be a way for groups to put money into their treasuries. Mr. Long stated there are five Saturdays in October and a bigger selection of people to help would be greatly appreciated. Mathers reminded the Board that the County Housing Authority will do some trenching behind their apartments to help with drainage. The Firemen would clear a path wide enough to accommodate a wagon. This will be an alternate route and will only be used if they are rained out from the trail below. Klein stated if they take care of all the liabilities he didn't see any negatives with the plan. Atherton said there are always groups looking for money. Highland stated there could be no alcohol on school property. Mr. Long stressed that no alcohol is allowed on the rides. This is monitored very closely.

The Board of Education will allow the Savanna Fire Department to use school property as an alternate route for their Haunted Forest and allow them to change the terrain as necessary.

Prevailing Wage Resolution; Jo Daviess County

Jo Daviess County is asking governing bodies to support a resolution to assist in passing legislation in Springfield – HB 3094; Amendment of the Prevailing Wage Act. Their hope is to change the cost threshold of the Prevailing Wage Act to help local government entities save funds. Kilpatrick asked if this will circumvent union wages. If yes she will not support it. Anderson said prevailing wage pushes out the little guy. You get a lot less work done for the dollar with union costs. Kilpatrick understands this. This reduction would allow local vendors to bid on projects. Highland stated this is only in support of the resolution.

Board members supported the resolution of HB 3094 – Prevailing Wage Act.

Bus Garage Leases

Bus garage leases must be renewed for the 2011-2012 school year. The district leases space from John and Beth Ritchie, \$1500 + \$80 for electric; Ken Lego, \$70 monthly; and Ron Holm, \$600 monthly. Eighty percent of the lease cost will be reimbursed through the transportation claim. Atherton feels this is an unnecessary cost and the district should build its own garage. Mathers stated when ARRA funds became available the district did look into putting a Morton building at the Primary School but the estimated cost was \$524,000. Klein stated maybe a centrally located bus garage would help with the time that students must get on the buses. Mathers said a central bus garage would be advantageous to the district there just is no funding source. Highland stated if the one percent sales tax had gone through there would have been a funding source.

The Board renewed the transportation bus garage leases with John Ritchie, Ken Lego, and Ron Holm for 2011-2012.

Savanna Water Tower Lease

The City of Savanna is asking the district to approve an addendum to the original lease to extend the agreement to have the transportation antenna on the city water tower for \$53.00 per month. Klein asked if the district has ever asked the city to waive the monthly fee. Mathers stated he has asked

before but had been refused. With the outcome of the one percent sales tax issue Board members feel the district should once again ask for a waiver of the fees. Klein and Mathers will attend the next city council meeting to discuss the issue. This item was tabled for action until June.

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Head Start

The Head Start preschool program will be renting two classrooms and some office space at the Intermediate School for 2011-2012. This is double the space they have been renting therefore, the lease cost has been doubled. Head Start must meet DCFS guidelines for the playground and will be responsible for any costs required to meet these guidelines. They at this point are required to add safety fencing.

The Board of Education approved the Head Start contract for 2011-2012.

Hillcrest Family Services

Hillcrest will continue to use four classrooms and continue the current agreement for 2011-2012. There maybe an addendum at a later date to buy administrative time for student use for IEP's, etc. Atherton still has uncertain feelings and questions about the group.

Board members approved the contract with Hillcrest Family Services for 2011-2012.

Milk and Bread Bids; FY 2012

West Carroll is part of the Three Rivers Cafeteria Cooperative which is seven districts that bid by bulk to get the best prices. The Cooperative did the bid process for milk and bread supplies for 2011-2012. Specific items on the bid are up due to increased costs and additional fuel costs. The low bid for bakery items is Sara Lee Bakery and low bid for dairy is Enyeart Distributing; these are the same companies used last year.

The Board approved Sara Lee Bakery for the FY2012 district cafeteria bid.

The approved Enyeart Distributing for the FY2012 district cafeteria bid.

Transportation Recommendations

The Board previously approved selling two - 2009 International busses to Central States for \$111,000, return seven busses to them, and receive four new 2012 busses in return with no additional costs to the district. The Transportation Committee discussed the remaining vehicles of the district fleet. All vehicles have over 100,000 miles and are starting to require some costly repairs. Superintendent Mathers would like to put these vehicles on a rotation basis, like the busses, with new or certified used vehicles. The committees' recommendation is to purchase a regular pick-up, add the Intermediate School to the snow removal list, purchase a 4 X 4 pick-up with plow for snow removal at the Middle School, and purchase a new driver's education car. They also recommend purchasing Chevrolet or GM vehicles because there are two Chevrolet dealers within the district that would be able to do the warranty work. Atherton asked if they had considered leasing vehicles instead of purchasing and look for vehicles that would get the best gas mileage. Mathers stated leasing standard vehicles would be different than leasing for busses but it could be added to the bid specifications as an alternate bid.

The Board of Education let for bid per the Request for Proposal two trucks for district use and one car for Driver's Education.

Surplus Equipment

The district owns a 1998 green Taurus wagon that is no longer being used because the motor mounts are completely rusted through making it unsafe to drive. Superintendent Mathers recommends disposing of the vehicle due to safety issues. The new salvage yard will buy it for \$300.00.

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Board members declared the 1998 green Taurus Wagon as surplus property and dispose of it for safety reasons.

Working Cash Abatements

The Board transferred or loaned funds from working cash to transportation and operations & maintenance so a balanced budget could be submitted to ISBE for approval. The Board must take action to make those loans permanent. A couple of 2010 summer projects were designed for payment with working cash funds. The bills were originally paid through O & M and must be repaid through abatement. The transportation loan was in the amount of \$410,000 but only \$300,000 is currently needed to balance that fund.

The Board approved the resolution abating working cash funds; \$613,400, Operations & Maintenance Fund and \$300,000, Transportation Fund as presented.

IASB Annual Conference

The annual school board conference is November 18-20, 2011 in Chicago. Registration packets and hotel accommodations will be released on June 6th. Superintendent Mathers asked all members to check their calendars and let him know if they are interested in attending the conference. Highland informed the Board that pending legislation in the Education Reform Action requires school board members to attend conferences or workshops. The Triple I conference would fill this requirement. He also reminded members that once they commit to attending, the district must pay registration fees and these fees are non-refundable. If a board member is unable to attend he would hope they would consider repaying the district the non-refunded fees.

Closed Session

The Board of Education went into closed session at 7:50 p.m. for the discussion of items A. appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees; B. collective bargaining matters or consideration of salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and E. student discipline cases.

The Board returned the regular meeting to open session at 8:55 p.m.

Action on Closed Session Items – The Board of Education made motions on the following action resulting from closed session.

To uphold the administrative decisions regarding out of school suspensions, transportation suspensions, and extra-curricular suspensions for students from West Carroll High School (1), Middle School (6), and Intermediate School (15) as discussed in closed session.

To accept, with regret, the resignation of David Hoyer, WC Intermediate School custodian; Pat Fuller, WC Middle/High school nurse; Sue Gerlach, WC Middle School FACS teacher; and Carla Mallow, district bus driver.

To employ Michael Bicksler as WC High School social studies/dual credit teacher and varsity football coach for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ Clint Cowman as WC High School assistant principal and athletic director for the 2011-2012 school year.

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To employ Jenna Fisher as district speech/language therapist for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ Susanne Foley as WC Primary School – 4th/5th grade special education teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ Chris Mason as WC Middle School cook's assistant (3 hours) for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ Karl Popkin as district transportation director for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ Travis Findlay as WC Middle School 7th grade boys' basketball coach for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ Michael Burton as WC Middle School 7th grade girls' basketball coach for the 2011-2012 school year.

To employ the following staff as providers of extended school year service: Rhonda Hartman, speech and Stephanie Iben, instruction.

To employ the following staff as summer school teachers, teacher aide, and cafeteria: Stephanie Iben, Angela Kamper, Christa Curley, Jen Goss, Amber Findlay, Rhonda Law, Lisa Wolfe, Pam Watts, Joan Brooks, and Shelly Falls.

To employ the following as summer custodians: Nicole Sack and Brianne Field.

To approve a \$1,000 stipend for Jeanette Ashby for the 2010-2011 supervision of the Regional Alternative Program at the WC Primary School.

To approve Sue McIntyre as a volunteer wrestling cheerleading advisor at WC High School for the 2011-2012 school year.

Adjournment

The Board of Education adjourned the regular May meeting of the Board of Education at 9:05 p.m.