

Monday November 21, 2022

Regular Open Session

White River Valley School Corporation

Minutes

The White River Valley School Board will meet in executive session at the WRV HS Admin center on Monday, November 21, 2022. The regular session will immediately follow the executive session at 7PM. Six Board members were present: Mr. Brock Hostetter, Mr. Jason Davidson, Mr. Andy Davis, Mr. Roger Shake, Mr. Joe Decker and Mr. David Reed. Also in attendance: Dr. Robert Hacker, Mrs. Rachel Guthrie, and Mr. Jason Walton.

I. Call to Order

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Mr. Brock Hostetter.

**II. Approve Minutes of Oct. 17, 2022
Public Meeting**

Approve Minutes

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2022 public meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Decker. The motion passed 6-0.

**III. Cert. of Exec. Session Memorandum
For Nov 21, 2022**

Cert. of Exec. Session

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the certification of the executive session memorandum for Nov 21, 2022.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger Shake. The motion passed 6-0.

IV. Approval of Corporate Claims

Approval of Claims

Mr. Roger Shake made a motion to approve the corporate claims from October 14, 2022 through November 18, 2022.

The motion was seconded by MR. Andy Davis. The motion passed 6-0.

V. Acceptance of Donation

Donation Acceptance

-\$1,500 to All 3 WRV Schools- American Legion Post 106 from Worthington, IN

-\$ 1,200 to WRV ES Student Fund - Anonymous Donation

Mr. David Reed made a motion to accept the donations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 6-0.

VI. Add Agenda Item

Added Agenda Item

Dr. Hacker presented to the Board that he would like to add an agenda item to the meeting.

Mr. Roger Shake made a motion to add the agenda item to the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Rachel Guthrie announced to the School Board members and to the public, that Mrs. Savannah Hogg was chosen to receive a DonorsChoose.org grant from The Big Ten and the College Football Playoff Foundation!

She received..

-parking pass

-2 tickets to the game (December 3rd) Big Ten Football championship

-2 VIP Hospitality passes

-\$4000 gift certificate to DonorsChoose.org

VII. Public Comment

Public Comment

As per Indiana State Statute, public comment is to be made available prior to any old or new agenda item. Mr. Hostetter, as board President, resides over this part of the meeting.

Mr. Brock Hostetter opened the meeting for public comment.

There was no public comment made. Mr. Brock Hostetter adjourned this portion of the meeting.

VIII. Old Business

A. Wolverine Enterprise Report-Miss Thomas

Wolverine Enterprises

We recently held our second annual Wolverine Enterprises LLC Open House with great success. Here to update the board on our Wolverine Enterprises program is Katelyn Thomas.

B. Facilities Report- Mr. Chuck Sims

Facilities Report

There is a great deal going on with our facilities and here to give his monthly maintenance update is our systems director, Mr. Chuck Sims.

Mr. Chuck Sims presented to the board and Dr. Hacker some projects that are in need for emergency approval to move forward. This work would be handled by Wes Leigh.

Mr. David Reed made a motion to approve the emergency approval requests.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger Shake. The motion passed 5-0-1, with Mr. Joe Decker abstaining from the vote.

C. Renovation Report

Renovation Report

Mr. Scott Steffenagel presents his monthly renovation report.

D. Body Safety Program Reminder

Body Safety Program

I sent out an email to all parents last Friday reminding them of the upcoming Body Safety Program to be presented by Mr. Terry Hall. The parent/guardian meeting is at 7PM on December 6th at WRV HS in the gymnasium. The program presentation to all of our K-12 students will be in the morning on December 7th. All three schools' presentations will be livestreamed on our District Facebook page in order for program transparency.

There is an opt out procedure that parents can follow. The opt out permission forms are available at the community parent meeting on the 6th. All of the principals will be including the information in upcoming school newsletters as well. This program was approved by the Board last November. It is offered all over the state and has been done in the other county schools at times. The last time we presented here at WRV was 2014.

E. Development of WRV Police Force

I asked Mr. Sparks to come and update the Board as to where we are with the formation of our police force. He has a family emergency he's dealing with, so I am covering for him tonight. We had a good meeting with Chief Gambill of the Worthington Police Department two weeks back. WPD is interested in a partnership between the school system and their local department. Jim O'Malley is a retired officer from WPD and now working for us as an additional SRO at the elementary school.

We've been in contact with Josh Goodman who has done the same thing at Linton and Sam Drummy, our counsel, who also has formation experience. Remember, we have passed a resolution beginning the process. Mr. Sparks has spoken with authorities at the police academy and is working through some issues regards to making sure we have the proper trainings and authorities in place prior to the Greene Co. Sheriff's Department ceasing our initial agreement.

We are also exploring avenues to get full coverage at the middle school as Mr. Sparks is active in both school environments. We will keep you posted as we continue through this process.

IX. New Business

A. Classified Employee Pay Increase
(December 9, 2022 Payroll)

Classified Employee Pay Increase

It is important to remain competitive to be able to find good people to come and work for us. I have reviewed our financial situation and would like to make a recommendation that all of our classified employees receive a 4% raise that will become effective on the December 9th payroll. The cost will be split between the Education Fund (for instructional assistants), the Operations Fund (custodial, maintenance, secretarial and financial office staffs), and the Cafeteria Fund (kitchen personnel). All total, the increase will cost the district \$32,000. We are lucky to have some outstanding individuals working for us at WRVSD. We appreciate them.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the 4% raise for all classified employees.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 6-0.

B. NEOLA Policy Update 35.1-First Read

NEOLA

The Board Policy Update 35.1 is now available and ready for approval. As always on policy revisions and additions we do a two-part process. Step one is the submission to the board, which we are doing tonight, and step two is coming back for approval next month. If anyone has any questions on any of the revisions/additions, please don't hesitate to contact me prior to next month's public session board meeting.

C. WRV High School/Middle School Music
Dept. Equipment Request

Music Dept. Request

Miss Emily Willoughby, our new instrumental/vocal music teacher at WRV High and Middle Schools has come to me a couple of times in discussion over equipment needs in her department. The school owns many of our instruments and equipment, and she has reached out to a number of places for price options to update some of the equipment. Tonight, in support of our student musicians and vocalists, I would like to recommend that the Board allow me to help purchase the following equipment updates, including a 3.4 octave marimba, 1 set of percussion mallets, 2 chime mallets, 1 triangle beater, 1 triangle clamp, 1 pack of 3 drumstick sets, and two Moongel Damper pads. The total cost of these upgrades is \$2,804.32 plus shipping. These purchases would come out of the Operations Fund.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the purchase request, along with making the approved amount \$5,000.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 6-0.

D. WRV HS Foreign Language Field Trip Request
(Costa Rica- Summer 2024)

Field Trip Request

As you might remember, the Board had approved a foreign language field trip to Costa Rica when the pandemic hit and the trip had to be canceled. Mrs. Oliver has submitted a field trip request this evening that would allow any interested students to travel to Costa Rica in the Summer of 2024 through Explorica INC. I included the information for the trip in your board packets. Mrs. Oliver has taken trips in the past and has utilized this company in doing so successfully.

The process would start with a meeting of interested students as soon as the board approves the trip. Seeing as that the board approved the trip the first time, I would seek re-approval for Mrs. Oliver to move forward with the planning necessary for the trip.

Mr. Andy Davis made a motion to approve the field trip request.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Decker. The motion passed 6-0.

E. Program Discussion

Program Discussion

Back in 2016-17, WRV Schools moved to a three school set-up that included a grade 5-8 middle school. We put grade five into the formation because of lack of room at the elementary school. Now that we are nearing the conclusion of our building renovation and addition project at Worthington, we know that we have the possibility and opportunity to make an adjustment to that current set-up. With the new cafeteria almost complete, the old cafeteria will be turned into a couple of additional classrooms. This is going to give us the flexibility to take a new look at our current configuration. Earlier this

school year, I spoke with our teaching staff at that level about the possibility of moving the fifth grade back into our elementary configuration. I will be talking to the classroom association through discussion about that possibility here at month's end. I wanted to bring this discussion to gain the board's opinion prior to recommending any decisions. There's a couple of factors that I want to publicly put out there:

1. Test Scores- if you take a look at our 5th grade I-Learn scores over the course of the last five years, we have seen the biggest drop off between grades 4 and 5. There are a number of mitigating circumstances for those scores, including the adjustment to a new learning environment and other social implications. The State of Indiana changed the standardized test product three years ago. With this new test, we have seen substantial drop off between grades 4 and 5 with strong recovery at grade 6, especially in math. The literature is mixed on where to make the break between elementary and middle schools. Some research indicates that grade five students are better served at the lower level than the middle level. Now that we have the room at the elementary school, I think it is important that we discuss and adjust this situation.

2. School Size and Personnel Factors- if we'd move the 5th grade back to the elementary, we would have over 350 students in the elementary; we would have just under 200 students at the middle level. There would be the need to make an administrative adjustment to help with the elementary, putting at least a half day assistant principal in place at the elementary. At the middle level, we would be over staffed administratively. There would need to be some personnel adjustments both with the teaching staff and the administrative staff.

3. We could move the middle school to a true middle school concept building, including true teaming with an emphasis on academic exploration. We know our 6th grade math scores are at the top of the county on a consistent basis as are our 8th grade language arts scores. We are building a great STEM program with Mr. Graham and Mrs. Cargal. You saw that emphasis at the October board meeting. Personnel-wise, I am going to recommend to you that we keep Mr. Graham at the middle level full-time next year and look at putting a full-time STEM person at the elementary level...depending on our student numbers.

X. Personnel

Personnel

A. Resignations-None

B. Hiring Recommendations

1. Josh Lundy-WRV MS Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach (7/8th)
2. Josh Lundy- WRV MS Track Coach
3. Conner Hill- WRV HS Varsity Track Head Coach
4. Jason Chesnut- WRV HS Varsity Boys' Golf Coach
5. Carter Hostetter- WRV HS Volunteer Boys' Golf Assistant Coach

6. Jadon Rogers- WRV HS/MS Volunteer Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach
7. Brittany Myers- WRV Girls' Basketball Biddy Ball League Coordinator
8. Bill Griffith- WRV HS Girls' Tennis Coach
9. Marc Walton- WRV HS Varsity Baseball Coach
10. Nathan Bough- WRV HS Varsity Softball Coach
11. Ann Drappo- WRV HS JV Softball Coach
12. Destiny Fiscus- WRV ES Pre-Kindergarten Instructional Asst. (29 hrs)
13. Ashley Allen- WRV HS Special Education Instructional Asst.

Mr. David Reed made a motion to approve all the hiring recommendations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Davidson. The motion passed 6-0.

XI. Information

Information

- A. School Quick Reports: ES, MS, HS
- B. Next Public Meeting- Monday, December 19, 2022 7 PM WRV HS
- C. Executive Session- Monday, December 19, 2022 6 PM WRV Admin. Center
- D. Supt. Open Office Hours- Monday, December 5, 2022 4-7 PM WRV Admin. Center

XII. Adjournment

Adjournment

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to adjourn the public meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 6-0.