

**Monday, July 24, 2023**

**White River Valley School Corporation**

**Regular Session Minutes**

The White River Valley Board of School Trustees will meet in regular open session on Monday, July 24, 2023 in the Wolverine Center at White River Valley High School in Switz City. There is a Building Corporation meeting scheduled for 6PM prior to the public meeting in the WRV HS Wolverine Center. An executive session will follow the Board of Trustees meeting. Six board members were present: Mr. Andy Davis, Mr. Jason Davidson, Mr. Bruce Porter, Mrs. Cleta Shake, Mr. Joe Decker, and Mr. Conner Hill. Also in attendance: Dr. Robert Hacker, Mrs. Rachel Guthrie, Mr. Mitch Hobson, and Mr. Doug Lewis.

**I. Call to Order**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President Mr. Andy Davis.

**II. Approve Minutes of the June 19, 2023  
Public Meeting**

**Approve Minutes**

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2023 public meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

**III. Cert. of Executive Session  
Memorandum for June 19, 2023**

**Cert. of Exec. Session Memorandum**

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the certification of executive session memorandum for June 19, 2023.

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

**IV. Approval of Corporate Claims from  
June 16, 2023 through July 21, 2023**

**Approval of Claims**

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to approve corporate claims from June 16, 2023 through July 21, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

V. Public Comment

**Public Comment**

Mr. Andy Davis opened the meeting for public comment.

There was no public comment during this time.

VI. District Recognition

**District Recognition**

WRV HS Shooting Sports 1A State Champions

VII. Grant Approval Recommendations

**Grant Approvals**

WRVSD has been awarded three grants and one in-kind donation since the Board last met:

1. Greene County Community Foundation Community Grant-\$5,960 WRV MS (Safety)
2. Greene County Community Foundation Community Grant- \$6,500 WRV ES (Music)
3. Indiana Department of Health- \$8,500 WRV MS/IU Partnership
4. Greene County Health Department- \$1,500 WRV MS/IU Partnership

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the grant recommendations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

VIII. Old Business

A. 1028/Lease Amendment/Additional  
Appropriation Consolidated Public Hearing

**1028 Hearing**

During the 1028/Lease Amendment/Additional Appropriation Consolidated public hearing there was a review of potential projects. During this time there was no public comment.

B. Resolution Confirming the Lease Amendment  
And Approving Related Matters

**Resolutions**

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the resolution confirming the Lease Amendment and approving related matters.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 5-1, with Mr. Bruce Porter voting no.

#### C. Resolution Approving Additional Appropriations and Related Matters

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the resolutions approving additional appropriations and related matters.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Decker. The motion passed 5-1, with Mr. Bruce Porter voting no.

\*All sections Handled by Barnes and Thornburg LLC

#### D. NEOLA 35.2 2nd Read and Recommendation for Approval

#### **NEOLA 35.2 2nd Read**

Last month, I gave the Board the NEOLA updates that occur after legislative sessions and court cases have given need for policy updates. Tonight is our 2nd read on these policies. They were all included in your Board packets over the course of the last two months. At this time, I need to ask for the approval of these policies as we work through the new laws and requirements that accompany the new legislation. Changes come by way of such things such as changes in language or in the addition of policies and procedures. It does take board approval.

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to approve the NEOLA 35.2 update.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

#### E. Summer Maintenance Project Report

#### **Maintenance Report**

We have had a very busy summer with projects. I will give the board a quick update:

1. Elementary School Paving: the paving is done with one exception..they are looking at the small separation outside the recess door. The project has been striped, and it looks really nice. Chriss Jobe was our project manager. He has been easy to work with and has done a good job with follow through thus far.

2. Middle School paving: the paving and striping has been completed. We are on Travis Egnew's list to fix the drainage. There is a plan in place with E&B Paving and Egnew to make sure everything is as it should be upon completion.

3. High School concrete project: the concrete has been poured and looks very nice. Mr. VanSant put the railing in last week and is painting the yellow safety stripes to complete the project.

4. All three gym floors have been refinished.

5. The middle school soccer complex is shaping up nicely. It is our hope to hold all practices there. The HS field will be used for competition only. We do host the sectional there, and last year the field was destroyed by all of the use. I would like to thank Randy Harris, Dane Emmons, Eric Graves, and Briar English for all of their help in getting this ready.

6. The safety film has been installed at all entrances to the middle school. This was made possible by the grant we just accepted this evening from the Greene County Community Foundation.

I have a couple of items:

\*The old riding lawn mower (a John Deere) at the elementary school has died. We have had it for many years, and the time is now to replace it. I would like to take the mower we purchased and are using here at the HS and MS and move it down to the elementary. You have a quote to purchase the same mower again to use here and at the middle school. We have had a good experience with this mower. I would utilize some of the excess HS bond funds for that purchase. We currently have just over \$225,000 in that account.

After board discussion, it was determined that the board would like to see more quotes from different companies.

\* We are having problems with the HS outside lights. We have had both Woods and Gaylor Electric looking at the situation. Jeff Pickett has done a really good job of getting us through to this point with all but one pole (the one outside Mr. Brown's tech office) not working. We have to get this situation fixed before we start our next bonding project, which will include paving the high school lots. We don't want to have all new paving and have to dig up new pavement in order to run new electric lines. I am recommending to the Board that we allow Gaylor electric to replace 12 head lamps, which will cut down electric line malfunctioning. The quote was just over \$16,000. Again, because it is at the HS, I can pull from the bond excess for this project.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the project for Gaylor Electric.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

\*And lastly, I just want to inform the Board that we are thinking ahead about the middle school electricity project. We authorized the individual panel work last month. We know through the same quote that the lead time to get the main panel equipment is almost a year, and so I would like to ask for the authority to write the purchase order ahead of the new bond work, so that Woods can get the equipment ordered. The repairs would come during the summer of 2024.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to give Dr. Hacker the authority to write the purchase order for Woods Electrical.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Davidson. The motion passed 5-1, with Mr. Bruce Porter voting no.

My final thought on maintenance is this...as you know, we give each principal \$10,000 to work with for CPF needs. The principal decides how to allocate those funds. Each principal will be reporting their CPF fund usage at the August 7th Board Meeting.

F. WRVSD-Wagler's Education  
Center Partnership

**Wagler's Education Partnership**

Mr. Walton and I have been working on a bus driver training partnership with Wagler's Education Center since last February. We talked about it last month and the board gave me permission to go work on a partnership agreement. I have some very exciting news to bring back to the Board this month. In your packet, you have the updated Bus Driver Training proposal. Wagler's will pay WRVSD \$1,000 per driver to partner with us, utilizing our equipment for a week every other month and working with some of our senior bus drivers for observation time, which is part of the BMV requirements for a Class B CDL license. Mr. Walton will serve as our liaison.

Furthermore, Wagler's Education Center will be helping our high school students earn industry certifications in both welding and agriculture (which is taught by Sam Zuckshwerdt) and NIHMS certification for our students in precision machining (which is taught by Matt Birt). For students in certain income brackets, these certification tests will come without cost. For those that don't meet the free requirements, I have built certification scholarships into our 3-E grant from the DOE.

This is an absolutely outstanding partnership that we can announce tomorrow morning if the Board approves this partnership agreement, which I am very excited to bring to you. We are the first school district to partner with Wagler's, and it is a tremendous service that our students are going to receive. Mr. Z has taught welding for a number of years for us, but is not certified to give the tests for certification. Now our kids are going to gain access to this; the NIHMS tests will also give our kids a great opportunity at NO costs.

It is my recommendation that we enter into this partnership with Wagler's Education Center. I would like to thank Michelle Ellis and her team for meeting with us to hammer out this agreement.

Mrs. Clela Shake made a motion to enter into the partnership with Wagler's Education Center.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

G. Amendment for Transportation Contract  
For Route 2-Mr. Walton

**Amendment for Transp. Contract**

Last month, the Board recognized Sam Floyd for his 55 years of service. We also completed the purchase of Bus 1 from Mr. Floyd and have also secured a driver to bring that route into the district route plan. The one remaining piece of the plan was an amendment to Route 2. Eric Floyd is the driver on the route and we need to add a shuttle piece to that route. The cost of the amendment is \$10 per day. Mr. Floyd has agreed to the amendment, and tonight it is necessary to approve the contractual change.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the amendment to Mr. Floyd's contract.

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

IX. New Business

A. 2022-23 WRVHS Athletic  
Dept. Report-Mr. Nate O'Neill

**Athletic Dept. Report**

Traditionally, our high school athletic director reports during the July meeting on the financial status of his department. Mr. Lewis and Mr. O'Neill are here this evening to give this summer's report. The figures were included in your board packet for this evening.

B. 2023-24 Athletic Trainer Contract

**Athletic Trainer Contract**

We have the 23-24 Athletic Trainer's proposal from Greene County General Hospital this evening. Two years ago, the contract cost us \$65 per ADM student. The hospital is having trouble finding personnel to be able to staff this program for all of the county schools. There have been some changes because of this difficulty. The proposal would be for the school system to pay \$25 per ADM to join the collaboration. Then, there would be a \$50 charge for each event that is directly attended by the hospital trainers. The school would be responsible for mileage at the IRS rate.

The hospital and athletic directors would be responsible for the scheduling of services on a weekly basis and priority would be given to those schools who have contact sports. WRV has soccer, boys/girls basketball, baseball, and softball which are considered contact sports. The hospital would provide athletic injury management and consultation, treatment of injuries and planning of recovery plans, concussion testing, release of athlete (in consult with doctors) from injury progression, and athletic physicals for participation. The hospital will determine which events are covered after consult with area athletic directors. The back page of the proposal includes coverage schedules. The

back of the proposal also states that the hospital will provide parents with trainer phone numbers in order to communicate injury situations and set up appointments at the school and- if necessary- at the clinic by the hospital. I have reached out to other entities. They are having this staffing problem everywhere.

The board decided that they would like more discussion on the athletic training contract.

#### C. 2023-24 Adult Meal Prices

#### **Adult Meal Prices**

All WRVSD students receive free breakfast and lunch through our participation in the state's CEP program. The DOE nutrition department has guidelines for the setting of adult prices. Mrs. Wiggington has utilized their series of guidelines and is recommending the following adult prices for the 2023-24 school year:

Adult Lunch: \$4.75

Adult Breakfast:\$2.75

It does take board action to set these 23-24 adult food prices.

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to approve the adult food prices for the 23-24 school year.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

#### D. Update or Teacher Appreciation Grant Policy for 23-24

#### **TAG Policy 23-24**

Each year, the Department of Education and the Indiana Education Employment Board ask each school district to review and approve their district policy regarding the Teacher Appreciation Grants passed out to district early in the winter and submit them with the Evaluation model the district utilizes. We've approved the Eval Model earlier this summer. Tonight, I am asking approval of the TAG grant policy. To review that policy for you: Teachers that receive Effective rating receive a base pay number. High Effective rated teachers receive 25% more than the base pay number. Teachers that are ranked Needs Improvement are not eligible for the grants. I ask that you re-approve the TAG Grant policy.

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the TAG Grant Policy.

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

#### E. 2022-23 I-Learn Score Review

#### **I-Learn Score Review**

The Department of Education has released the I-Learn scores from the 2022-23 school year. Across the state, scores have not yet rebounded from before the pandemic.

Teachers continue to work very hard to adjust our curriculums in both language arts and math to help students recover from learning loss. We also utilize a strong Response-to-Intervention program to meet students where they are and helped them move forward.

In taking a look at our results, we are faring well in regards to the other schools around us. WRV Middle School recorded the top scores in Greene County. This is huge for us because we were the lowest in the county back before we moved to the present format of elementary school, middle school, and high school.

At the elementary level, we are second in the county, but only by less than 4%.

It is good to know where we are relative to those around us; however, as superintendent, I am more concerned where we are relevant to state score averages. We are above state average in mathematics in every grade level, but one. We have made a district adjustment to help with that situation by moving the 5th grade back to the elementary. In some of those areas, we are way above state averages. I commend our teachers and principals for this effort.

We are not quite as strong in English/language arts. Two levels at the middle school were under state average. Mr. Hobson and I have had discussions on how to best proceed in these areas, and he has developed a good plan.

Overall, test scores don't make the school. It is just one factor of many that helps us to gauge learning. We always want to give our students the very best opportunities for success. We look forward to our faculties looking at our methods and curriculums to make adjustments. Using this data is important as we make curricular decisions. We appreciate the work our teachers and students put forth in these areas.

F. Info. Regarding Class  
Action Social Media Lawsuit

#### **Class Action Social Media Lawsuit**

A couple of years back, WRVSD joined a class action lawsuit against the makers of JUUL, a smoking device that was readily available to our students and was a menace for educators. As you recall, WRVSD won an award settlement in the class action around \$15,000. We will receive that award over two payments in the winter. We have been contacted by the Indiana Rural Schools Association and been made aware of a new suit that has been brought by the same group of partners against social media vendors. I have included the information in your board packet, so that you may educate yourself on this matter. We deal with social media situations at twice the pace we do with JUUL situations, using many employee ours to take care of problems that were related to issues on Facebook, TikTok, and such.

I would like the Board to take some time to consider joining the class action suit. Take and read the information and, maybe, come to a decision for our August 7th Board meeting.



The money that we were awarded from the JUUL class action will be going to our new WRV Police Force. Any money that we might be awarded in this endeavor would also go back into that area.

X. Personnel Matter

**Personnel**

A. Leaves

1. Stephanie Watson-FMLA

Mr. Jason Davidson made the motion to approve the FMLA leave.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-0.

B. Resignations

1. Austin Russ- WRV HS Mathematics Teacher
2. Jill Staggs- WRV ES 4th Grade Teacher
3. Samantha Book- WRV ES Instructional Assistant
4. Destiny Fiscus- WRV ES Instructional Assistant
5. Teresa Jackson- WRV ES Custodian (Retiring Effective 7/1/23)

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to accept the resignations.

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

C. Hiring/Assignment Recommendations

1. Emma Carr- WRV ES 3rd Grade Teacher
2. Jacqueline Hendrickson- WRV ES Instructional Assistant
3. Whitney Green- WRV ES Instructional Assistant
4. Jenny McSweeney- WRV ES Custodian
5. Dawn Johnson- WRV HS Custodian
6. Joe Records- WRV HS Volunteer Cross Country Coach
7. Claire Records- WRV HS Volunteer Cross Country Coach

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to approve the hiring recommendations.

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

XI. 2024 Budget Update

**2024 Budget Update**

We continue to make decisions as to how to continue streamlining our operations. A couple of notes:

1. We are just about done with the budget for 2024. It is important to realize that every year we advertise high and then the DLGF will make cuts where they see fit. Our budget won't be set until 10 days after the 1782 notice is received, which is usually in late December.

2. I have involved Mr. Lewis, Mr. Hobson, and Mr. Walton in the budget building process this year. I think it has been a very eye-opening experience for them.

3. I am currently entering our budget into the Indiana Gateway website for release at our September 5th budget hearing.

XII. Transfer Request

**Transfer Request**

We have a number of out-of-school transfer requests tonight for students at the elementary school and the high school. Mrs. Guthrie and Mr. Lewis have followed our administrative guidelines and recommend acceptance. I would recommend the same.

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the out-of-school transfer requests.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Clela Shake. The motion passed 6-0.

XIII. Information/Announcements

**Info/Announcements**

- A. Executive Session: Monday, August 7, 2023 6PM WRV HS Room 110
- B. Regular Session: Monday, August 7, 2023 6:30PM WRV HS Wolverine Center
- C. Supt. Office Hours: Monday August 14, 2023 4:30-7PM WRV Admin Center
- D. New Teacher Induction: Monday, August 7, 2023 9AM at WRVHS Wolv. Center
- E. Teacher Professional Day: Tuesday August 8, 2023 8AM at WRV HS Gym
- F. First Student Day: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 8:05 AM

XIV. Adjournment

**Adjournment**

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting,

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