

# MINUTES

## WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

1200 N. Salisbury Street

West Lafayette, Indiana

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Monday, February 12, 2024

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Amy Austin; Mr. Brad Marley; Mr. Tom Schott; Mrs. Rachel Witt;  
Dr. Yue Yin; Mrs. Dacia Mumford; Mr. Laurence Wang; Dr. Shawn Greiner,  
Superintendent; Mrs. Anna Roth, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Michelle Cronk, CFO

President Austin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

The Intermediate School was represented at this month's meeting. The following students involved in the Arts (Art/Orchestra/Band/Music/Choir) were recognized:

#### Art

Youngsoo Choi – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Ella Winchester – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Simon Hoffman – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Orchestra

Evelyn Chih – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Tevyn Watson – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Melody Fei – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Band

Henry Seibert – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Elizabeth Ricks – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Music

Micah Pettit – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Felicia Xie – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Jace Johnson – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Choir

Cindy Kim – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Calla Gawthrop – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Shayne Song – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

*We are SO PROUD of our students! Keep up the FANTASTIC work and CONGRATULATIONS!*

## II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- **Becky Creech: Teacher – JSHS Principal Candidate**
- **Rachael Sandberg: Teacher – JSHS Principal Candidate**
- **Shane Fry: Teacher – JSHS Principal Candidate**
- **Marydell Forbes: Teacher – JSHS Principal Candidate**
- **David Kucik: Parent – West Lafayette Zoning Board**
- **Natalie Lucas: JSHS Parent Council President/Parent – JSHS Principal Committee Process**

### III. ROUTINE BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda for the February 12, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.**

**Motion by: Mrs. Witt**

**Seconded by: Mr. Wang**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

- B. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on January 8, 2024.**

**Motion by: Mr. Marley**

**Seconded by: Mr. Schott**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

- C. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on January 8, 2024.**

**Motion by: Mrs. Witt**

***Seconded by: Mr. Marley***

**Vote: 4 of 7**

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; No: Mumford, Wang, Yin; The motion passed.*

*\*Mr. Wang made a motion that all “No” vote records for 3 Board officers’ elections, documented in Section II, Item A – Election of Officers in the January 8, 2024 Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Board of Trustees be removed.*

*Motion by: Mr. Wang*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford*

*Vote: 3 of 7*

Discussion ensued between Board Members regarding abiding by the bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order when documenting the “yes”, “no”, and “abstention” votes.

*Yes: Wang, Mumford, Yin; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; The motion failed.*

*\*Dr. Yin made a motion to amend the Organizational minutes to include the statement provided by Mr. Wang stating that public comment should be allowed at the beginning of the Organizational Meeting.*

**Motion: Dr. Yin**

*Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford*

*Vote: 3 of 7*

Discussion ensued between Board Members as to whether or not public comments should be allowed before any Board actions.

*Yes: Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; The motion failed.*

*Mrs. Austin returned to the main motion.*

- D. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on January 8, 2024.**

***Motion by: Mr. Marley                      Seconded by: Mr. Wang                      Vote: 7 of 7***

Discussion ensued regarding reviewing the drafted minutes prior to each Board meeting.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

- E. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on January 8, 2024.**

***Motion by: Mr. Marley                      Seconded by: Mr. Schott                      Vote: 0 of 7 (tabled)***

Discussion continued as to why the Secretary of the Finance Board did not review the meeting minutes and provide input.

*\*Mrs. Mumford made a motion not to include sections of the minutes that she believed were not presented during the meeting. Mrs. Austin suggested tabling the Finance Minutes to allow additional time for review. The Finance Minutes will be on the March Agenda for a vote.*

***Motion by: Mrs. Mumford                      Seconded by: Mr. Marley                      Vote: 7 of 7***

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

- F. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on January 22, 2024.**

***Motion by: Mr. Wang                      Seconded by: Mrs. Witt                      Vote: 7 of 7***

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

- G. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on January 26, 2024.**

***Motion by: Mrs. Witt                      Seconded by: Mr. Marley                      Vote: 7 of 7***

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Board Policies**

Mrs. Jessica Billingsley, with Church Church Hittle and Antrim, discussed the first batch of ten policies that were presented for a first reading. Mrs. Billingsley told the Board that she planned to go through each policy and highlight some points, allow questions, discussion and receive feedback. The policies would then be presented, for a second reading, during the Board meeting next month.

For each policy, CCHA follows the laws and provides the legal citations at the end of the policy.

The policies that CCHA are preparing are streamlined as compared to NEOLA's policies to provide easier access. Mrs. Billingsley told the Board that it is their decision to make, at the beginning of each policy or rather a direction to provide, regarding the language.

Discussion continued between Mrs. Billingsley and the Board of School Trustees regarding some language in current policies that should remain, the contract between the WLCSC and CCHA for preparing Board Policies and the time to review policies between first and second readings. In addition, community feedback is also welcome.

*\*A motion was made by Mrs. Witt to move the Personnel Report prior to the Priorities/Updates/Strategic Planning*

*Motion by: Mrs. Witt*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford*

*Vote: 7 of 7*

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

**B. Priorities/Updates/Strategic Planning**

Dr. Greiner reported that there has been a focus on district priorities which provide direction for one year. He said there is a need to start thinking about longer range goals, three to five years out, focusing on strategies, time-specific action plans for continuous growth and development among the district. This will involve community and representative stakeholders and a list of vendors/firms has been collected that might be considered through the strategic planning process.

Dr. Greiner recommended, to Mrs. Austin, that a future Work Session be held to continue developing a plan for Strategic Planning.

**C. Personnel Report**

**Recommendation:** Dr. Greiner recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve all information contained in the personnel report including the new hire of JSHS Principal, Mr. Chad Rodgers.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Personnel Report as presented in the Board Packet.***

*Motion by: Mrs. Witt*

*Seconded by: Mr. Schott*

*Vote: 5 of 7*

Discussion ensued regarding Teacher contracts and the legality of them.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Mumford; No: Yin, Wang; The motion passed.*

*\*A motion was made by Mr. Wang to separate the personnel report into two parts keeping the JSHS principal recommendation/contract separate from the rest of the items contained in the report.*

*Motion by: Mr. Wang*

*Seconded by: Dr. Yin*

*Vote: 3 of 7*

*Yes: Wang, Yin, Mumford; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; The motion failed.*

Discussion continued between Board members regarding the recruiting effort, hiring process and timeline of the JSHS Principal candidate and sharing their opinions, in support or opposition, of the process.

***Mrs. Austin returned to the main motion for the Personnel Report followed by a short recess.***

***Mrs. Austin called the meeting back to order at 7:58 p.m.***

***The School Board of Trustees Meeting resumed with New Business item:  
Priorities/Updates/Strategic Planning***

#### D. Field Trips

**Recommendation:** Dr. Greiner recommended the Board of School Trustees approve the following field trips:

**February 9 – 10, 2024**  
**WL Swim/Dive to IHSAA State Swim Meet in Indianapolis, IN**

**March 1 – 3, 2024**  
**Robotics to District (Regional) Competition in Mishawaka, IN**

**March 22 – 24, 2024**  
**Robotics to District (Regional) Competition in Plainfield, IN**

**April 16 – 21, 2024**  
**Robotics to World Championship in Houston, TX**

**May 6 – 9, 2024**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade to Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN**

***Mrs. Austin recommended that all five field trips be approved as one item.***

**Motion by: Mrs. Austin                      Seconded by: Mrs. Witt                      Vote: 7 of 7**

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Field Trips as presented in the Board Packet.***

**Motion by: Mrs. Mumford                      Seconded by: Mr. Wang                      Vote: 7 of 7**

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

### E. JSHS Summer School

**Recommendation:** Mrs. Roth recommended approval from the Board of School Trustees to move forward with a contract with Indiana Online. The specifics of the contract are not known, at this time, until more information is received, from students, regarding what will be taken during the summer. This recommendation is being presented at this time so that the counseling department can move forward.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the contract with Indiana Online.***

**Motion by: Mr. Marley                      Seconded by: Mr. Schott                      Vote: 7 of 7**

Discussion continued regarding what opportunities would be available for students, course selections, counselor involvement and funding.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

### F. Website Update

Mrs. Roth reported that one of the Board priorities for this year was updating the website. A survey was provided for community feedback and the top three reasons for visiting the site were:

(1) calendar/schedules, (2) food service, and (3) director/contact information.

Mr. Hamilton, Director of Technology, thanked Mrs. Roth for her assistance with obtaining community feedback to help guide the layout/design of the new website. He explained that they wanted to have a design that was a bit easier to generate content (news, images and pictures) relevant to each of the schools. Short-cut icons were created, per feedback, for easier access to navigate events, menus, counseling, athletics, news articles as well as social media integration. There is also a separate page for Board information which also includes the livestream which enables the community to stay on the WLCSC site. The website is set to “go live” this week.

Discussion continued with questions regarding how to determine what information is removed/archived.

#### **G. Board Compensation**

**Recommendation:** During the January Board of School Trustees Regular Meeting, they voted to terminate compensation for special (Executive/Work) sessions/meetings. This item was not on the Agenda, therefore, the Board members did not have the opportunity to review it, in advance, for a vote. Mrs. Austin said a memo from ISBA was received regarding Board compensation, and she made a recommendation that Board compensation increase to \$150 for monthly meetings and \$75 for special (Executive/Work) sessions/meetings in accordance with state law retroactive to January 1, 2024.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Board compensation of \$150 per meeting and \$75 per Executive Sessions and Work Sessions retroactive to January 1, 2024.***

***Motion by: Mrs. Austin***

***Seconded by: Mr. Schott***

***Vote: of 7***

Discussion continued between Board members who had other opinions on how compensation should be paid for each meeting.

*\*A motion was made by Mrs. Witt that Board members would receive only one rate for all concurrent meetings held on the same night.*

***Motion by: Mrs. Witt***

***Seconded by: Mrs. Austin***

***Vote: 7 of 7***

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

*\*Dr. Yin made a motion to table the vote to allow time to compare Board compensation for other school districts.*

***Motion by: Dr. Yin***

***Seconded by: Mr. Wang***

***Vote: 3 of 7***

Discussion ensued as to whether or not comparisons should be made before voting on the increases. Also, if any Board member is uncomfortable receiving compensation, a donation to the WL Education Foundation could be made.

*Yes: Yin, Wang, Mumford; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; The motion failed.*

*\*A motion was made by Mrs. Mumford to separate voting on compensation for monthly meetings from special meetings.*

***Motion by: Mrs. Mumford***

***Seconded by: Mr. Wang***

*Yes: Mumford, Wang; A vote did not continue for those voting no and/or abstaining.*

*\*Mrs. Austin told the Board that she would divide the compensation votes into two parts.*

*\*The first motion is increasing the Regular Board meeting compensation to \$150 per meeting.*

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Mumford; No: Yin, Wang; The motion passed 5 of 7*

*\*The second motion is to reinstate the special meeting compensation.*

*Motion by: Mrs. Austin                      Seconded by: Mr. Schott                      Vote: 4 of 7*

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; No: Mumford, Wang, Yin; The motion passed.*

Discussion ensued noting that the monthly compensation increase, in addition to, the yearly salary was sufficient and not receiving payment for every special meeting with others voicing their opposition to increases and reinstating the special meeting payment.

*\*Mr. Wang requested waiting until after the next election before the increase is put into place. Mrs. Austin then asked for a vote based off of Mr. Wang's recommendation.*

*Yes: Wang, Yin; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Mumford; The motion failed 2 of 7.*

*\*Mrs. Austin returned to the motion to reinstate the special meeting compensation.*

*\*Dr. Yin said she had two motions, from before; (1) to table the vote on increased Board compensation and (2) to reduce the number of Board members from 7 to 5. Mrs. Austin told Dr. Yin that would something to bring forward at the beginning of the meeting as it is a different topic from Board compensation. It was suggested, during the conversation, that this topic should be presented to legal counsel.*

#### **H. Indiana Band Association Transportation Agreement**

**Recommendation:** The WLCSC Transportation Department has had an agreement with the Indiana Band Association for the several years to provide transportation from local hotels to Purdue University during its Spring Camp. This year, the camp will take place beginning on the evening of March 8, 2024 and ending the morning of March 10, 2024. It is recommended that the WLCSC bill the Indiana Band Association \$600 for this service and require a Certificate of Liability Insurance of no less than \$1,000,000 to cover the use of the WLCSC buses and drivers.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the agreement between the WLCSC Transportation Department and the Indiana Band Association for transportation services during Purdue University's Spring Camp.***

***Motion by: Mrs. Witt                      Seconded by: Mr. Wang                      Vote: 7 of 7***

***Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.***

#### **I. WVEC Lease Termination**

**Recommendation:** The Wabash Valley Education Center (WVEC) has had a lease with the West Lafayette Community School Corporation since the late 1970's for the land its building currently resides on. WVEC Director, Judi Hendrix, notified the WLCSC that WVEC wished to terminate its lease early and turn the building over the WLCSC as set forth in the original lease agreement. It was recommended to officially terminate the lease as requested.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the request to terminate the lease between the West Lafayette Community School Corporation and the Wabash Valley Education Center.***

**Motion by: Mr. Schott**

**Seconded by: Mr. Wang**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

Discussion ensued regarding as to whether or not WVEC accounts payable would still be ran through the WLCSC. It was also discussed about the future of the WVEC building being utilized as a Central Office with the current Central Office building being used as a transportation facility. A suggestion was also made that maybe the WVEC building could be used as a potential preschool.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

**J. Disposition of Outstanding Checks**

**Recommendation:** Mrs. Cronk recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve the request to dispose of outstanding checks that were written in calendar year 2021 and unpaid as of December 31, 2023. Checks written in 2021 that remained outstanding as of December 31, 2023 are void per Indiana Statute (I.C. 5-11-10.5). Funds will be receipted back the fund from which they were drawn.

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the request to dispose of outstanding checks that were written in calendar year 2021 and unpaid as of December 31, 2023.***

**Motion by: Mr. Wang**

**Seconded by: Mr. Schott**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

Discussion ensued regarding the total dollar amount of outstanding checks which was provided in the Board packet.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

**K. Accounts Payable/Finance Update**

**Recommendation:** Mrs. Cronk recommended that the Board of School Trustees approve the audited claims in the report.

The total claims paid:

- Corporation Claims – \$2,899,721.43
- WVEC Claims – \$104,128.66
- Total Claims Paid – \$3,003,850.09

***A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the audited vouchers as presented.***

**Motion by: Mr. Wang**

**Seconded by: Mr. Marley**

**Vote: 7 of 7**

Discussion continued with a Board member requesting information regarding early literacy and high ability expenses.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*

*\*A motion was by Mrs. Witt to skip the reports and adjourn the meeting.*

**Motion by: Mrs. Witt**

**Seconded by: Mr. Marley**

**Vote: 4 of 7**

Discussion continued regarding: (1) committee assignments (2) request to hear the reports and (3) reports could be shared/mailed to all Board members and the Superintendent.

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; No: Yin, Mumford; Abstention: Wang; The motion passed.*

**VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD - None**



**VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS - None**

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. – Work Session (IF NEEDED), Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room  
Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting, Happy Hollow Building, LGI Room

**IX. UPCOMING DATES of INTEREST**

Monday, February 19, 2024 – Snow Makeup Day #1 (school WILL be in session)  
Friday, March 8, 2024 – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-week grading period  
Monday, March 11 – Friday, March 15, 2024 – Spring Break  
Monday, March 18, 2024 – School Resumes / 4<sup>th</sup> 9-week grading period begins

**X. INFORMATION for the PUBLIC**

Board documents will be posted on the WLCSC website as early as Friday afternoon and no later than noon on the Monday prior to the Board meeting.

Video, audio, and written transcript will be posted within 7-10 days following the Board meeting.

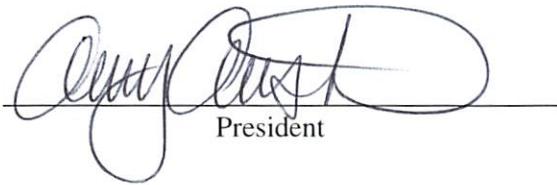
**XI. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

*Motion by: Mr. Schott*

*Seconded by: Mrs. Austin*

*Vote: 7 of 7*

*Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: None; The motion passed.*



\_\_\_\_\_  
President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Please note: a transcript of a meeting is a non-edited electronic transcription generated by YouTube from the livestream of the meeting. These have not been reviewed or edited for accuracy and ***should not*** be considered official minutes of the meeting. Typographical errors and omissions should be expected.

Documents are available on the WLCSC website - <https://www.wl.k12.in.us/board/meetings-info>