

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, October 7, 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 p.m.

I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

❖ **WLIS**

- **Good Student Recognition Awards**
 - 4th Grade: Isaiah Blocki, Isaac Gleich, Emaan Khan and Theo Krusemark
 - 5th Grade: James Johnson, Summer Johnson, Duom Lueth, Lawrence Qiu and Beckett Trosky
 - 6th Grade: Maddie Clampitt-Morales, Ivy Cui and Colton Nesbitt
- **School Highlights** (*presented by Mrs. Psarros, WLIS Principal*)
 - Demographics (enrollment, free/reduced lunch, special education, teacher/support staff)
 - Data Overview (ILEARN Math and ILEARN ELA)
 - Goals (increases in ILEARN Math proficiency and ILEARN ELA proficiency)
 - Goal Strategies (new literacy textbooks, ILEARN checkpoints and grade level teams reviewing data, curriculum and resources to support one another)

❖ **Transportation Highlights** (*presented by Mr. Doug Caldwell, Transportation Director*)

- Staffing
- Equipment (16 yellow buses and 4 white mini buses)
Overview
 - Routing (63 per day)
 - Additional Transportation (McKinney Vento, outside of district)
- Locations served
- Appreciation (school community and employees)

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- John Hannigan - Pickleball Courts
- Colin William - Student/Parent Feedback (teacher evaluations)
- Cheng-Kok Koh - Policy/By-laws/Meeting Minutes
- Lora Marie Williams - Diversity/Equity/Inclusion/Transparency
- Erin Moon-Walker - Active Shooter Threat/Safety/Diversity/Equity/Inclusion/Policy/Legal Counsel

III. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were placed under the Consent Agenda for the Board's approval:

- **Agenda for the October 7, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.**
 - This was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

It was recommended to ad an Ad Hoc Temporary Policy Advisory Committee with an Open Door, filled by Mr. Wang and Mrs. Witt, to review the five Policies that were discussed during the October 7, 2024 Work Session.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Mr. Wang inquired as to whether or not teachers, administrators, teachers, parents, community members, etc. could be added to the committee. Mrs. Witt explained the process which would include Board members (Witt and Wang), an Administrator and Administrator support staff (to take notes) who would review the policies. Text would not be removed, but recommendations would be highlighted and/or red-lined, then submitted to the Board for review. The reviewed and recommended policies would be placed on the website for community review/feedback and subject to the two-reading process by the Board of School Trustees. Mrs. Witt also indicated that some policies are “department specific.” For example, policies regarding health services would be sent to the school nurses and Corporation physicians for input, food safety/handling would go to the Food Service Director for input, policies with transportation would be sent to the Transportation Director and so forth. Mr. Wang suggested adding the wording of advisory committee with an open door.

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

- **Minutes of the Work Session of the Board of School Trustees held on September 16, 2024.**
- **Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on September 16, 2024.**
 - This was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote.

Motion by: Mrs. Mumford

Seconded by: Dr. Yin

Mrs. Mumford requested to table the Meeting Minutes of the September 16, 2024 Board of School Trustees based off of a community member stating that they are inaccurate.

Motion by: Mrs. Mumford

Seconded by: Dr. Yin

Vote: 5 of 7

Dr. Yin said the minutes are more detailed, but discussions should contain more information/details.

Mrs. Witt called a “Point of Order.”

Mr. Wang requested to comment, but was reminded that a “Point of Order” was called, therefore a vote must take place.

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

The September 16, 2024 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting were tabled until the November 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. They will be included with the November Agenda for a vote.

- **Minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of School Trustees held on October 1, 2024.**
- **Field Trip: German Classes to Christkindlmarket and Goethe Institute in Chicago, IL on December 4, 2024.**
- **Mr. Eric Ulrich, District Safety Specialist and County Safety Commission Appointee**
- **Personnel Report**

- **Accounts Payable**
 - Corporation Claims - \$3,660,424.29
 - WVEC Claims - \$27,159.50
 - Total Claims - \$3,687,583.79

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve all remaining items in the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Schott

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

**After the vote of the Consent Agenda, Mrs. Austin returned to the following items (as noted above):*

- *Addition of an Agenda item: Ad Hoc Temporary Advisory Policy Committee*
- *Tabling the September 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes*

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recommendation: It was recommended to approve an Ad Hoc Temporary Policy Advisory Committee to begin reviewing the following Policies:

- A125 - Nepotism, Conflict of Interest, Gifts and Use of Corporation Resources
- D175 - Board-Staff Communications
- G450 - Advertising, Publications and Naming Rights
- H200 - Relations with Special Interest Groups
- H250 - School Library Material Removal Request Procedure

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. District Priorities and Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Greiner provided an update on the current position with regard to the Strategic Planning process and briefly recap what has been in the past with the use of District Priorities.

- Strategic Planning Update
 - Progress/Surveys (surveys will remain open until October 28, 2024)
 - Survey Data
- District Priorities
 - Academics (academic achievement and growth)
 - Whole Child Approach (well-being of students beyond academics)
 - Facilities (facility needs to optimize student, staff and community experiences)
 - Finances (responsible and responsive stewards of public funds)
 - Communications (engage with stakeholders)
 - Goal (Strategic Plan that serves as a guide for years to come)

B. GO BOND Hearing and Resolution

The next item is for the Board to hold a Project and Preliminary Hearing on the proposed construction project for a General Obligation Bond. Any community member who is interested in speaking must sign-in.

**Mrs. Witt requested permission for a five-minute recess at 7:18 p.m.*

**Mrs. Austin recalled the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.*

Recommendation: Representative, Kristin McClellan, from Ice Miller explained the purpose of the hearing. Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1, whenever a school corporation proposes to issue bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building or buildings resulting in total costs in excess of certain thresholds, or if a school corporation has a Debt Service Fund tax rate above a certain amount, the school corporation is required to hold two public hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds. The General Obligation Bond will be used for renovations and improvements to facilities throughout the School Corporation, including site and athletic improvement, demolition work and the purchase of equipment, technology and buses.

The need for the Project as well as possible projects:

- Projects are taken from the Feasibility Study conducted by Fanning Howey in 2022
- The Study is a working document
- Dates are aligned to the necessity of each Project which can be situational
- The City of West Lafayette has pledged, through the Redevelopment Commission, \$750,000 to support the tennis court project

Potential Projects:

- Athletic Facility Upgrades (tennis courts, field lighting, track, scoreboards, fencing)
- West Lafayette Jr-Sr High School (roofing, lighting, restrooms, HVAC)
- West Lafayette Elementary School (classroom and restroom upgrades, HVAC)
- Happy Hollow (partial building demolition)
- Transportation (buses)

Baker Tilly Representative, Lindsey Simonetto, explained the financial impact of the Project:

- Existing Debt Service
 - Existing Debt Service Payments
 - Schedule of Existing Debt Service
 - Calculation of General Obligation Debt Capacity
- Proposed Financing Information
 - Summary of Proposed Financing
 - Existing and Proposed Debt Service/Lease Rental Payments
 - Estimated Taxpayer Impact

Mrs. Austin opened the Public Hearing:

- Community Comment(s)
 - No comments were received

Items required for a vote:

- Adopt Project Resolution
- Adopt Preliminary Determination Resolution
- Adopt Preliminary Bond Resolution
- Adopt Reimbursement Resolution

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the Project Resolution as presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the Preliminary Determination Resolution as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the Preliminary Bond Resolution as presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the Reimbursement Resolution as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Marley

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

C. Budget Adoption

Recommendation: Mrs. Cronk presented the Budget Adoption during the Regular Board Meeting. Resolutions for adoption and approval for both the Capital Expenditures Plan and School Bus Replacement Plan were included along with other routine resolutions.

The 2025 budget was reviewed during the public Board Regular Meeting on September 16, 2024. The Budget Form 4 and Notices to Taxpayers for the Capital Expenditures and Bus Replacement Plans were published on Indiana Gateway and on the school corporation website indicating that September 16, 2024 would be the public hearing date and October 7, 2024 would be the formal adoption of the budget and appropriate plan documents.

The Business Office did not receive any information from either state or local sources that would result in any necessary changes to the budget documents at this time.

Items required for a vote:

- Adoption of School Budget
- Adopt 2025 Referendum Fund Revenue Spending Plan
- Adopt 2025 Capital Expenditures Plan
- Adopt 2025 School Bus Replacement Plan
- Adopt Resolution of Budget Authority
- Adopt Transfer and Loan Resolution

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the School Budget as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the 2025 Referendum Fund Revenue Spending Plan as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the 2025 Capital Expenditures Plan as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the 2025 Bus Replacement Plan as presented.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the Resolution of Budget Authority as presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 5 of 7

Discussion ensued with Mrs. Mumford sharing that she would like for the Board to have the authority to review and approve financial decisions. Therefore, she would be voting no. Mrs. Witt shared that Dr. Greiner, Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Cronk have always been forthcoming in sharing information with the Board and public and this is an administrative matter for processing. Mr. Wang added that it is the School Board's duty and authority to make budget decisions. Dr. Yin asked for further clarification of the Resolution of Budget Authority, and Mrs. Cronk provided some additional information/examples. Mrs. Witt said that she did not believe anything illegal would be presented to the Board, and Mrs. Cronk confirmed that everything done is aligned with Indiana Code. Mr. Wang commented that he doesn't feel that the Board should relinquish its authority and feels it is part of the Board's job.

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

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve to adopt the Transfer and Loan Resolution as presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 5 of 7

Discussion ensued with Mrs. Mumford sharing that she would be voting against this as the Board should not be quick to give up their authority over financial decisions. Mr. Wang shared that he agrees with Mrs. Mumford. Mrs. Witt said that the Board should allow the administrators to do the jobs they've been hired to do without complicating things for them. Dr. Yin wanted to be sure the Board would be kept informed of any changes/updates in order to provide feedback.

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

D. Health Insurance Renewal and Premiums

Recommendation: Mrs. Cronk reported that a meeting was held with the WLCSC insurance consultant Diane Titchenell, with Brown & Brown, to review the Anthem medical and dental renewal for 2025. Rates for vision, life and LTD are locked in for another year at this time. Currently, the market trend is an 8% increase in medical claims and a 13% increase in pharmacy claims leading to an increase in insurance premiums across the market.

The medical insurance renewal with Anthem for 2025 will have a 2% increase in the premium, and the dental insurance renewal with Anthem for 2025 and 2026 will have a 12.5% increase. This will be the first increase

with dental insurance premiums since 2019. Mrs. Cronk said it's important to remember that the Corporation pays for a percentage of the health insurance plans, therefore, shares the cost of premium increases. Mrs. Cronk recommended approval for the Anthem medical and dental renewal with the increase in premiums.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the Health Insurance Renewal and Premiums as presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion ensued with Mrs. Witt expressing appreciation for the explanation and document regarding the health plans and costs. She also inquired about the larger dental percentage with the dental increase and asked if there was a way to have smaller, more gradual increases. Mrs. Cronk had explained that although it sounds like a large increase, the total premium only amounts to an additional \$3.20/per month for the employee-only plan, and the 12.5% was recommended by Anthem. Dr. Yin asked if the teachers had input in the decision and was told they did.

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.

E. Finance Update

Mrs. Cronk reported that the Objects Breakdown of the month's claims is included in the Board Packet during the period of September 12 through October 2. Two Fund Reports were also provided. The first one is the month-end final Fund Report for August after all revenue and expenses have been posted and the bank reconciled. A preliminary Fund Report for September, which is still in the process of posting revenue and some expenses, was also included in the Board packet. In addition, there was a claims document for Internal Adjustments in the Board packet that involved a Federal Grant.

Discussion continued with Mr. Wang inquiring if there would be an additional charge with legal counsel, CCHA, for the meeting between Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Mumford and CCHA. Dr. Yin said she feels that this is unnecessary and there shouldn't be an additional fee for the meeting. Mrs. Witt reminded the Board that this was voted on during the September Board meeting, therefore, they need to move forward. Further comments continued, and Mrs. Witt called a "Point of Order" to move forward with the meeting.

VI. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

Mrs. Austin (*Legislative Liaison*)

- Dr. Greiner's evaluation has a due date of October 21.
- Attended the Hoosier Women Forward lunch as the guest of Representative Chris Campbell.
- Attended the ISBA Conference in Indianapolis and submitted report.
- The November Board meeting will be held in the HH LGI Room due to table delays for the new location.

VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Mr. Schott (*WLSEF and Community Council*)

- Over the last few weeks, WLSEF has hosted two alumni reunions – for the classes of 1964 and 1974. Both classes took a tour of the Jr./Sr. High School and loved seeing how the building has evolved over the years.
- The fall round of teacher grant applications are due by Oct. 25 and will be announced before Thanksgiving break. The next teacher grant cycle will open in January and will also include the opportunity for coaches to apply for grants through the John Taylor Endowment for Athletics.
- The Foundation has its first renewable scholarship, established by Gary and Michele Lehman. Recipients will be known as Lehman Family Scholars and can receive the scholarship for up to four years for undergraduate education. The Lehman's scholarship brings the total to 26 scholarships offered through the Foundation. Thank you to Gary and Michele for supporting our new graduates in this way.
- The Foundation received a wonderful gift from one of our Community Partners, Summers Plumbing, Heating and Cooling. Representatives from Summers delivered a check for \$6,375 to benefit the West

Lafayette Backpack Program. We appreciate their support for the Backpack Program during a time when volunteers are packing and delivering to over 50 families in our schools.

- Businesses that are interested in becoming a Community Partner can read more about the program on the WLSEF website and contact Wendi Ailor.

Mr. Marley (*Redevelopment Commission*)

The Redevelopment Commission meeting was held on September 18 at 8:30 a.m. Highlights included:

- Salisbury corridor continues to move along and should be done by the end of the year.
- Cason Park:
 - Play equipment is being installed
 - Pond liner is in
 - Fishing piers are going up
 - Kayak launch is in progress
 - Expected completion in May of 2025
- Public Safety Building Portal is open now to view the schematics of the design work.
- There was a mistake where Salisbury Street and Cumberland Avenue connected. It was about a foot and a half too tight which was an engineering and construction flaw. The city filed a claim against the contractor and received a \$800,000 settlement.
- Bid openings for solar panels at the Wellness Center which are being taken under advisement.
- The Wellness Center now has 8,000 members.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 16.

Dr. Yin (*G.L.A.S.S.*)

- The next G.L.A.S.S. meeting will be held tomorrow, and the public is welcome to attend.
- Attended the ISBA Conference and went to several of the sessions which were very helpful.

Mrs. Witt (*Board/Teacher Discussion*)

- Attended the ISBA Conference and submitted report.
- Attended the West Lafayette Education Association Discussion on September 19. Conversation included:
 - Contract days (how they're utilized at the three buildings)
 - Discussed Open House and what would work for the teachers regarding the evenings
 - Next meeting is Thursday, October 17

Mr. Wang (*Parks and Recreation*)

- Attended the ISBA Conference and submitted report.
- Parks and Recreation (nothing to report)

Mrs. Mumford (*Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County*)

- Public Schools Foundation has not met since their last meeting.
- The Cupcake Run Fundraiser was a huge success with great support from students, teachers and others in the school district.

Comment/question directed to Mrs. Austin asking if it was legal to prevent Dr. Greiner from sharing information that was requested.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Work Session, HH LGI Room: Monday, November 11, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting, HH LGI Room: Monday, November 11, 2024 at 6 p.m.

IX. UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

1st 9-week Grading Period Ends: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Fall Break: Thursday, October 10-Tuesday, October 15, 2024

School Resumes: Wednesday, October 16, 2024

2nd 9-week Grading Period Begins: Wednesday, October 16, 2024

PSAT (2-hour early dismissal for students): Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Parent-Teacher Conferences: Wednesday, October 23, 2024

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.

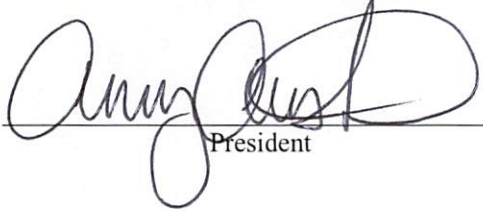
XI. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed.



President



Secretary

PLEASE NOTE:

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