

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, November 11, 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.

President Austin began with a moment of reflection in honor of those who have served our country.

I. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

❖ JSHS

- Indiana Repertory Theater's Young Playwrights Semi-finalists
 - Niamh Cameron – “Competitors”
 - Kyra Chopra – “After the First Bell”
 - Therese Corong – “Masquerade Murder”
 - Suzy Sun – “A Girl Who Was Immortal”
 - Sahaana Terani – “Mother’s Connection”
 - Shooyee Liu – “The Heist”

- ❖ The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) recognizes German teachers and programs for their outstanding contributions to the teaching and learning of German in the U.S. Mr. Rodgers, principal of the JSHS, recognized Randy Studt for receiving the Goethe-Institut/AATG Certificate of Merit.

Note: The Special Education Highlights were presented prior to the JSHS Highlights.

- School Highlights (*presented by Mr. Chad Rodgers, WLIS Principal*)
 - Demographics (enrollment, free/reduced lunch, special education, teacher/support staff)
 - Data Overview (ILEARN Math, ILEARN ELA, SAT and graduation rate)
 - Highlights (National Merit PSAT/NMSQ and AP Exams/scores)
 - Goals (mental health resources for staff/students and multi-tiered support system)
 - Goal Strategies (team-building, junior high identity and peer coaching)
 - Work in Progress (math placement and course guides)
- ❖ Special Education Highlights (*presented by Mrs. Stephanie Qualio, Special Education Director*)
 - Overview of WLCSC Building Special Education Programs (staff)
 - WLCSC Special Education Students (year/number of students/percentages)
 - Support Staff Surveys (Teachers and Paraprofessionals)
 - Goals (support students/staff, parent study group/improve communication)
 - Celebrations (grants/behavioral support training/professional development)
 - Looking Forward (parent study group/trainings/collaboration with parents and staff)

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Becky Creech, Teacher – School Calendar
- Gaby Barash, Parent – Tennis/Pickleball Courts

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Agenda for the November 11, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees.**
- **Minutes of the Work Session of the Board of School Trustees held on October 7, 2024.**
- **Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on October 7, 2024.**
- **WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar.**

Personnel Report

- **Accounts Payable**
 - Corporation Claims - \$4,412,764.01
 - WVEC Claims - \$32,844.56
 - Total Claims - \$4,445,608.57

A motion was made to remove the WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford

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

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; The motion passed to approve all remaining Consent Agenda items.

Discussion ensued on how to proceed with motions/votes regarding the WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar.

A motion was made to vote on the WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Austin

Points of discussion included community input, the number of days off for fall break, breaks aligning with Purdue and/or TSC, appreciation of the calendar committee, cultural holidays, excused absences for religious holidays and expansion of the calendar committee.

An additional motion was made to refer the calendar to a committee and table the WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar at this time.

Motion by: Mr. Wang

Seconded by: Mrs. Mumford

Discussion ensued noting that families do appreciate having calendars for advance planning, as well as the educational professionals, and the current committee is trusted to do their job.

A vote was conducted regarding the motion to table the calendar and refer it to a committee.

Yes: Yin, Mumford, Wang; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; The motion failed. Vote: 3 of 7

A vote was conducted regarding the motion to approve the WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Wang; No: Mumford; The motion passed. Vote: 6 of 7

The WLCSC 2026-2027 School Calendar was approved.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on September 16, 2024, as previously presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Witt

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 4 of 7

Discussion ensued with a reminder to the Board that minutes are a documentation, a recording of actions taken by the Board, nothing more, nothing less. They are intentionally not a transcript or exhaustive summary of every word said by each person. The words are not intended to be persuasive nor should they promote or defend any position, individual member or group of members. Minutes are neutral.

Discussion continued as to whether the minutes are correct, and the suggested revisions should be included.

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

B. No motion was made to approve the suggested revisions to the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees held on September 16, 2024, since the original meeting minutes were approved.

C. Ad Hoc Policy Committee Assignment: Policy C200 – Bullying

Mrs. Austin assigned Policy C200-Bullying to the Ad Hoc Temporary Policy Committee for review. The committee accepted the assignment of Policy C200 – Bullying.

D. Policy 167 Conduct – Report/Update

Regarding the initiation of Policy 167 – Conduct, Mrs. Austin asked Mrs. Mumford if she planned to attend the scheduled meeting between the two of them and legal counsel on Tuesday, November 12. Mrs. Mumford shared that she will be attending. Mrs. Austin inquired as to whether or not Mrs. Mumford’s lawyer would be attending, and Mrs. Mumford said that is to be determined.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. JSHS Attendance Policy (revisions)

Recommendation: A student’s attendance is essential to learning. Every absence, whether excused or not, interrupts a student’s understanding of the material being presented and weakens their interest in the continuing program. Research show that educational achievement is directly related to attendance. Mr. Chad Rodgers, JSHS Principal, presented the Attendance Policy with the updated/revised recommendations:

- Utilize the Skyward Website or App beginning in 2025-26 to report an absence
- Exempt Absences
 - State Statute Exemptions
 - Local Exemptions
 - Non-Exempt Absences
- Truancy
- Skyward Attendance Codes
- Robocalls

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve the revisions to the JSJS Attendance Policy as presented.

Motion by: Mrs. Mumford

Seconded by: Mr. Marley

Vote: 7 of 7

Discussion ensued regarding the attendance policy included open campus/student lunch, state reporting, exemptions (religious holidays, competitions, conferences, extra-curricular activities) and Indiana Code.

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

B. Policy D175 – Board Staff Communications

Recommendation: The Ad Hoc Policy Committee met and reviewed the policies that were released/assigned to them. This particular Policy is a one-to-one crosswalk to the current Policy with very few changes making it easy for the Board to review with enough adequate information to vote on.

A motion was made that the Board of School Trustees approve Policy D175 – Board Staff Communications.

Motion by: Mr. Schott

Seconded by: Mrs. Witt

Vote: 5 of 7

A motion was made to table Policy D175 – Board Staff Communications.

Motion by: Mrs. Mumford

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 3 of 7

Discussion ensued as to whether or not enough information has been shared with the Board, along with legal counsel’s input as well as distinguishing between Policies and Administrative Guidelines. It is a Policy that appears to restrict interactions between staff and School Board Members.

Yes: Mumford, Yin, Wang; No: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt; The motion failed to table Policy D175 .

The Board Chair returned to the original motion for a vote.

Discussion continued as to whether or not it is a common practice for Board Members not to interact with staff members. The Policy notes a chain of command and Board Members have no special authority except for when they are convened at a legal meeting of the Board.

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

C. Tennis Court MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented to the Board of School Trustees for discussion only. The MOU would be among the West Lafayette Community School Corporation, the City of West Lafayette (City), the City of West Lafayette Parks and Recreation (Park Board), and the City of West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission (RDC) for the ongoing public access and use of the redeveloped Cumberland Tennis Courts. The WLCSC, City, Park Board and RDC would agree to redevelop the Tennis Courts, including complete reinstallation of surfaces and sub-surfaces, restriping, including dual-stripping of up to four courts for both pickleball and tennis use, installation of new lighting and fencing.

The estimated total cost of the redevelopment project will be between \$1.8 and \$2 million of which the RDC would provide \$750,000 in redevelopment construction support funding.

Mr. Strode, Athletics Director, has been working closely with his coaches and said this should not interfere with tennis given that the MOU states students of the WLCSC and tennis will remain the priority.

Discussion topics included gratitude for the priorities placed on the students and extra-curriculars, in addition to the collaboration with the City, Park Board and RDC and support of the WLCSC Athletics Director and coaches. Additional topics included pickleball noise, lining of the courts, and how to work together to provide something beneficial for the students and community.

- Blue Ribbon Award Update
The Blue-Ribbon Ceremony was held this past week in Washington, D.C. Each school was able to send representatives including the principal, a teacher and superintendent. Mrs. Delaney, Mrs. Benhart and Dr. Greiner were in attendance. The event was also live streamed and many classes were able to watch. Mrs. Delaney is excited to present highlights of the experience during the December Board Meeting.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Austin and Dr. Yin regarding their reelection to serve on the Board. Congratulations to Dr. Purpura and Mr. Lyle on their election to begin serving on the Board in January. Thank you to Mr. Marley and Mr. Schott for your service on the Board. Thank you to Mrs. Koliantz and Mr. Scott for your interest in running for the Board and serving the community.

Mrs. Cronk (CFO)

Mrs. Cronk reported that the Objects Breakdown of the month's claims is included in the Board Packet during the period of October 3 through November 6. Two Fund Reports were also provided. The first one is the month-end final Fund Report for September after all revenue and expenses have been posted and the bank reconciled. A preliminary Fund Report for October, which is still in the process of posting revenue and some expenses, was also included in the Board packet.

VII. BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. Austin (Legislative Liaison)

No report at this time.

Mr. Schott (WLSEF and Community Council)

- WLSEF is hosting a scholarship information night in partnership with the high school counseling office on Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the LGI Room. The focus will be on scholarships offered through the Foundation.
- On Dec. 5, WLSEF is assisting with the Career and Trades Fair for juniors and seniors.
- The Foundation is working to grow its alumni relations efforts through LinkedIn. Alumni are encouraged to join "West Lafayette Schools Alumni Association" on this social media platform. It's an opportunity to network and share career news with fellow Red Devil alumni.
- The Foundation hosted a luncheon for retired WLCSC staff on Oct. 22 at the Whittaker Inn. It was the second year for this event. Corebridge Financial served as the sponsor, and WLSEF is grateful for this partnership. Forty-three retirees attended and enjoyed good food, lots of laughter and conversation, and a fun West Lafayette trivia game.
- Community Council met Nov. 4 and, as Dr. Greiner wrote in his Nov. 8 Friday Notes, I was unable to attend. Please reference his notes for a recap of the meeting.

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

The next G.L.A.S.S. meeting will be held tomorrow; no other updates.

Mrs. Witt (Board/Teacher Discussion and Policy Committee)

The Policy Committee met and discussed the five policies that were released.

- Policy D175 was voted on this evening.
- Policies H200 and G450 have a "third leg" which is Policy C475, therefore H200 and G450 are on hold until they can be reviewed with C475.
- Request was made that the Board Chair release Policy C475 to the committee.
- Mrs. Austin released Policy C475 to the Policy Committee.
- There were some questions regarding Policies H250 and A125, therefore questions were sent to legal counsel by the Board Chair.

There was an IDOE investigation regarding a Bullying situation, and it was determined that the incident was reported correctly, and there were no findings.

WLEA met for Board-Teacher Discussion on October 17 with the following general updates/discussions:

- Support staffing update (paras, interventionists, custodians, sub-fill rates, etc.)
- Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) timeline
- Vector Trainings
- Professional Development
- PSAT day bell schedule

Mr. Wang (*Parks and Recreation and Policy Committee*)

Attended the following:

- ISBA Employee Discharge Webinar to have a better understanding of the personnel procedures.
- The Policy Committee Meeting.

Parks and Recreation has just been routine business.

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

The Foundation just finished their Fall Grants and congratulations to Mr. Roe for receiving a Grant titled Stem Coding with TinkRWorks. A celebration will be held on Thursday, November 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Ripple and Company and all are invited.

Mr. Marley (*Redevelopment Commission*)

This will be my last School Board meeting for the year. After serving for 16 years, it is time to move on to other challenges.

Since I've been on the Board, collectively, there have been many accomplishments:

- Founded the Foundation
- Approved three General Fund Referendums
- Funded a new Intermediate School
- Made improvements and additions to the other properties without and tax increases
- Hired one of the best Superintendents in the State of Indiana who brought the best administrators
- Survived a pandemic
- Increased communications and transparency with the community
- Blue Ribbon School (WLES)

This is not a political role, it's called service through collaborative effort; this is a team sport with different backgrounds, but at the end of the day, we work together toward a common goal which is supporting the students.

Final thought:

- Please let the teachers do what they love which is teach
- Let the Administration do what they are trained and well-qualified to do which is operate our schools

The WLCSC is over 100 years old and on the side of Margerum City Hall it says "An education is the birthright of every child." If we use this as a driver and focus, West Lafayette Schools will be around another 100 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with one of the greatest Public-School Systems in the country. It's been an honor.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Work Session: Monday, December 9, 2024 at 5 p.m. (if needed) – Location TBD

Regular Board Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6 p.m. – Location TBD

IX. UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 27 – Friday, November 29, 2024

1st Semester Ends: Friday, December 20, 2024

Winter Break Begins: Monday, December 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 8:35 p.m.

Motion by: Mr. Marley

Seconded by: Mr. Wang

Vote: 7 of 7

Yes: Austin, Marley, Schott, Witt, Yin, Mumford, Wang; 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>