

he notes below were written by the chair of the WLCSC Board of Trustees, Rachel Witt, and sent to the members of the WLCSC board of trustees, the Superintendent of schools, date as noted. They were written as documents to aid collaboration and contain both informative and deliberative items. They are informal communication, written with the sole purpose of information to board members to facilitate individual members' ability to execute the task each were elected to do. They were not written for any form of publication.

Writing of these weekly notes and distribution to the board is voluntary and can be stopped at any time. A school board may decline to distribute information that is deliberative. Deliberative is defined, in part, as expressions of opinion or thoughts that are of a speculative nature, and that are communicated for the purpose of decision making. Nearly all language in these notes exactly fit the description of deliberative.

The Board Chair, in consultation with corporation and board leadership, is releasing these documents, only minimally redacted, as part of our ongoing work for transparency. Names/pronouns are redacted to ensure a first-person voice. Other redacted language could include: Legally protected information, i.e. personnel or student names or reference, deliberative information where release of the information could potentially cause harm to a person or group of persons, or inhibit the ability of the board to conduct the business of the board.

Redacted Text is noted by <Redacted Text>

1.7.23 Chair Notes

As always, these notes are confidential. If you have any item you are interested in more conversation about, please let me know. I will set up a time with you. You are also always welcome to add comments to these notes if you have additional resources that would benefit the board. Rachel

Board/Development - Training

- Having received no further communication from any current or incoming board member regarding the proposed restructuring of Board Member Engagements for 2023, I will make the recommendation to the 2023 Board Chair, when elected, that they proceed with the proposed engagement structure and proceed with the process of assigning engagements as quickly as possible after their election, prior to the February Regular Meeting
- You will notice on the organizational meeting agenda that the board chair is obliged to assign a WLCSC board member to the WLSEF board. I will make the recommendation to the 2023 board chair that be assigned to member <Redacted Text>. He has served on the WLSEF board for the past several years and is willing to continue for 2023. This does not preclude another member being added should that be desirable, but does satisfy the obligation to assign a member to the WLSEF at our organizational meeting.
- Board Goal #2 related to communication.

- Superintendent <Redacted Text> has provided additional information regarding the request specifically about the board packet release within <Redacted Text> weekly notes. This has become the “hot spot” related to the communication goal and is appropriate placement given it is entirely deliberative material at this point. This board goal related to communication remains an open item and I recommend the 2023 board chair resume it after election.
- New Member Mentorship meeting held 1/5 at 4:15 pm.
Members <Redacted Text> in attendance. Primarily we discussed the swearing in process, how to participate in the meeting, and the specific board packet release question. As a result, new members <Redacted Text> submitted packet specific questions via email and <Redacted Text> previously submitted via the question bank. Superintendent <Redacted Text> submitted all questions and answers to the board in his weekly notes. This was, as I’m sure you are able to see a substantial amount of work that would normally happen in onboarding meetings. My great thanks to <Redacted Text> and his team for working through all of these questions and helping us to make sure members have information they need to work through a steep learning curve.
- *Reminder* New members <Redacted Text> scheduled to attend ISBA new member ‘Basic Training’ on 1/21
- Additional new member mentorship meetings not yet scheduled, will finalize a list of dates after the new member building tour date is finalized.

Meetings of the Board

- *Reminder*, swearing in of members at 6:25 pm immediately prior to meeting.
- 1/9/23 6:30 pm Organizational Meeting, Regular Meeting, Board of Finance.
- *Reminder*. Save the Date for the WLSEF Scarlet & Gray dinner 4/22/23
- As part of the conversation related to adding policy change to the board agenda for the 1/9 meeting, I committed to members <Redacted Text> to create a statement for the board chair to give regarding the process the board will follow regarding public release of the ‘board packet’ documents prior to the meetings. This statement would be read during “information to the board” segment of the meeting and is requested for the benefit of any members of the community with interest.

Regarding Board Bylaw 143.1, regarding public expression of board members.

As was announced in our December meeting, the board is pursuing review and possible edit of this board bylaw with anticipated completion in the first quarter of 2023. We have since obtained opinion from our retained legal counsel, <Redacted Text> of Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim to confirm that this bylaw falls within the jurisdiction of the board as it relates to new state legislation and specifically the documents known as the “board packet”. Legal counsel response reads: **House Enrolled Act 1130 made additions/revisions to IC 5-14-1.5-3 and 3.7 requiring school boards to allow a member of the public who is physically present to provide oral comment at a**

board meeting and when a board may meet virtually. HEA 1130 does not address board packets or public access to board packets. Hence, no conflict exists between HEA 1130 and the referenced policy language. The Indiana Access to Public Records Act (IC 5-14-3 *et seq.*) addresses public access to records maintained by West Lafayette Community School Corporation such as the board packet. No law, including HEA 1130 nor the APRA, requires West Lafayette Community School Corporation to make the board packet proactively available. That is a policy decision within the jurisdiction of the Board. As such, the board will continue the following process already underway for review and consideration of any change to board bylaw 143.1. 1)The board chair and superintendent have provided deliberative supplemental information materials to the board for consideration 2)The board will meet in work session in February for discussion regarding bylaw 143.1 3) The policy committee will discuss new bylaw language after the work session will present a bylaw revision to the full board for first reading in the March Regular Meeting.

Community/Patron Feedback

- x1 Response to patron<Redacted Text> who spoke at our December meeting cc: Superintendent.
- x1 Patron <Redacted Text> complaining about member <Redacted Text> written commentary to their personal email. Advised patron to respond with “unsubscribe”. No additional follow up.
- x2 Patrons (withheld at patron request) regarding a comment made in member <Redacted Text> commentary, apparently dissatisfied with my assignment as <Redacted Text> mentor. **As a reminder, it is always best professional practice for board collaboration that any concerns be addressed directly with the person of concern.** It is unfortunate that did not happen in this case, however, I am happy to further explain the mentor assignment process. Mentors should, whenever possible, be veteran members of the board. A “veteran” would be a member who has completed at least one term. On our current board, there are three members who fit that criteria, <Redacted Text> was the only one of the three members who was willing and able to create availability to serve as a mentor for incoming members <Redacted Text> hence, my assignment. As a reminder, the mentor role is to lend an organization and cohesion to the onboarding process for new members. It is also intended to increase efficiency for our superintendent and central office staff and best utilize their time for training. It is not intended to be the exclusive source of information for new members, and while strongly recommended, a member may decline to participate in mentorship should they find it to not be helpful.

General Business

- Request received from <Redacted Text> regarding the school board information available on the website. Please review and respond by Tuesday morning if possible.

- Thanks to member <Redacted Text> for working through clarification of WLCSC membership in the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.
Member <Redacted Text> will be participating on our behalf in 3rd House as part of her Legislative liaison role with the ISBA.
- School Board member group text will be set up with the seven of us plus <Redacted Text> As a reminder to all, this is only to be used for general logistical communication and/or sharing of education related informational media.