

**Whiteside School District #115
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2023
7:00 pm
Whiteside Middle School**

Administrators: Mark Heuring, Monica Laurent, Nathan Rakers, Kim Bossler, Jaime Cotto, Chris Stinnett

Visitors: as noted on the sign-in sheet

1.0) Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

President Rod Euchner called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0) Roll Call of Members

Board Members present: Jeremy Bochantin, Angela Dickerson, Rod Euchner, Derek Houston, Sean McKee, Christine Mitchell-Endsley, and Nancy Sanchez.

3.0) Accept / Amend Consent Agenda

Motion by Dickerson, second by Mitchell-Endsley to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

4.0) Public Comment

President Rod Euchner welcomed visitors and members of the WFT. Members of the WFT introduced themselves and where they taught.

Motion by Bochantin, second by Mitchell-Endsley to move the Public Comment portion to just before 11.0 Closed Session. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

5.0) Public Hearing FY 24 School Budget

Motion by Dickerson, second by Houston to open the public hearing on the FY 24 budget. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

President Rod Euchner opened the meeting for discussion.

There were no comments or questions.

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Bochantin to close the public hearing on the FY 24 budget. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

6.0) Consent Items

6.1) Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting August 17, 2023

Motion by Dickerson, second by Sanchez to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting August 17, 2023. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

6.2) Approval of Minutes from Closed Session August 17, 2023

Motion by Sanchez, second by Mitchell-Endsley to approve the minutes from the Closed Session August 17, 2023. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

6.3) Approval of Treasurers Report

Motion by Bochantin, second by Mitchell-Endsley to approve the Treasurers Report as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

6.4) Approval of Claims / Bills Payable

Motion by Dickerson, second by Bochantin to approve the claims / bills payable as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

7.0) Board Secretary Correspondence

Mr. Heuring reminded the board of the three emails he had forwarded to them. He has received one additional on regarding a PE injury. There were no questions or comments regarding the emails at this time.

Mr. Heuring also shared a Thank you to the Board from the family of Wil Clark.

8.0) Administrative Reports

8.1) Elementary Report – Mr. Rakers' reviewed his written report.

A question was asked about curriculum updates for Social Studies and Science. Mr. Heuring let the board know this would be discussed further under 10.6 Discussion of Curriculum Mapping Project.

Mr. Heuring also let the board know that we would be bringing Aims Web Scores and the School Report card, hopefully in October.

8.2) Middle School Report – Mrs. Laurent reviewed her written report.

Mrs. Laurent congratulated Mrs. Stinnett on winning the Illinois Heart Award and Kristy Schaaf on the Excellence in Math award.

Mrs. Laurent also congratulated the Softball, Soccer, and Baseball teams on a successful year. Mr. Griffith presented the Regional Championship plaque for the Baseball team to the Board.

8.3) District Superintendent Report – Mr. Heuring reviewed his written report.

9.0) Committee Reports

9.1) Finance Committee –

Recap of the committee meeting was in the Superintendent Report. Members, Euchner and Bochantin, had nothing else to add.

9.2) Building and Grounds

Recap of the committee meeting was in the Superintendent Report. Members, Mitchell-Endsley and Bochantin, had nothing else to add.

10.0) New Business

10.1) Approval of the FY24 Budget

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to approve the FY24 School Budget as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

10.2) Approval of FY 23 AFR as presented

Motion by Sanchez, second by Mitchell-Endsley to approve the FY23 AFR. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

10.3) Discussion of Warrior Mascot

The Board discussed the use of the Indian Head as our Warrior Mascot. The decision was made to form a committee and try to find out the history of the Warrior Mascot before any final decisions are made. Derek Houston and Christine Mitchell-Endsley will be on the committee.

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to close the open discussion on the mascot. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

10.4) FY 24-25 Staff Needs / Concerns

Discussion by the Board on whether or not to look for a Challenge / Gifted Teacher for the 24-25 SY.

The Board discussed other ways to offer a Challenge program if the position is not able to be filled.

Motion by Sanchez, second by Bochantin to post the FY 24-25 staff needs: Elementary School Self-contained Special Ed, Speech Language Pathologist, 8th Grade Math Teacher with High School Endorsement, Challenge & Gifted Teacher. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

10.5) Student Acceleration – Policy 6:135

Draft was included in the packet for Board Members to review. Board members will review and have discussion at a later meeting.

Motion to by Houston, second by Sanchez to close the open discussion on Policy 6:135. Ayes – 7, Nay – 0.

10.6) Discussion of Curriculum Mapping Project

Tabled until after 10.8 Stifle Marketing Presentation

10.7) Discussion of MS HVAC Project

Tabled until after 10.8 Stifle Marketing Presentation

10.8) Marketing Presentation

Tom Crabtree, Haley McAndrew, and Rod Wright joined the meeting via a zoom call. Mr. Crabtree and Ms. McAndrews, from Stifel, presented a general overview of the district's outstanding debt balance and what we could borrow for a building campaign. Mr. Wright, from Creative Entourage, presented the Board with how his company can help the Board with a building campaign.

Dr. Houston asked when constituents would start to see the tax increase. Mr. Crabtree reminded the board that the increase was already in the works due to the Working Cash Bonds.

Jeremy Bochantin asked the cost of the marketing program. There is no cost to the district, other than printing or marketing materials, until the referendum is placed on the ballot.

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Bochantin to close the open discussion on the marketing presentation. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

10.6) Discussion of Curriculum Mapping Project

Mr. Heuring would like to create committees to select a Science and a Social Studies curriculum. The committee would narrow down choices and then a survey of all teachers would help make the final choice.

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Houston to allow Mr. Heuring to form committees for selecting a Science and a Social Studies curriculum. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

10.7) Discussion of MS HVAC project

Mr. Heuring has been in discussions with GRP to look at replacing the middle school hallway units. However, the recent failure of the unit at the Primary end of the elementary school could change which units need to be addressed first. Replacement of the units could be paid for with a maintenance grant, ESSER funds, and Working Cash Bonds.

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Bochantin to close the discussion on the HVAC projects. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

4.0) Public Comments

President Rod Euchner opened the floor for any public comments.

Julie Miller, a parent, addressed the Board with concerns about the soccer team playing four games in one week.

There were no other public comments.

11.0) Closed Session

Motion by Sanchez, second by Mitchell-Endsley to enter closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee(s), discussion of district legal matters / pending litigation and student discipline matters. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Board went into closed session at 9:13 pm.

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Dickerson to return to open session. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Board returned to open session at 9:54 pm.

12.0) Action Items Following Closed Session

12.1) Approval of Tuition Reimbursements

12.1)1. Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to approve the tuition reimbursement request for Emily Sackett. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

12.1)2. Move the previous roll for Amy Jung. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

12.2) Employment of Paraprofessionals

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to employ Lauren Opbtande, Middle School Paraprofessional. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

12.3) Approval of District Resignations

Motion by Houston, second by Dickerson to approve the resignation of Ariell Moore, ES Paraprofessional. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

12.3)1. Move the previous roll for Kelsey Smith, MS Paraprofessional. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

12.3)2. Move the previous roll for Amy Hartung, Track Assistant Coach only. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

12.4) Employment of Stipend Positions

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to employ Addison Burris as MS 7-8 Girls Volleyball Coach. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

13.0) Adjournment

Having no further business motion by Houston, second by Mitchell-Endsley to adjourn. Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.



Rod Euchner, President



Karla McKee, Secretary