

Monday, September 18, 2023

White River Valley School Corporation

Regular Open Session

The White River Valley School Board of Trustees will meet in regular public session on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7PM in the Wolverine Center of the White River Valley High School in Switz City. There is an executive session scheduled prior to the meeting at 5:45PM that may carry over following the public meeting, if needed. There will be a reception at 6:30 in honor of WRVSD's IDOE Excellence Award in the Wolverine Center. There were seven board members present: Mr. Brock Hostetter, Mr. Andy Davis, Mr. Joe Decker, Mrs. Cleta Shake, Mr. Conner Hill, Mr. Jason Davidson, and Mr. Bruce Porter. Also in attendance, Mrs. Rachel Guthrie, Mr. Doug Lewis, and Mr. Jason Walton.

I. Call to Order

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Mr. Brock Hostetter.

**II. Approve Minutes of August 21, 2023
Regular Session & Sept. 5 Budget Hearing/
Special Teacher Comp. Hearing**

Approve Minutes

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 regular session and the minutes from the September 5, 2023 budget hearing/special teacher compensation hearing.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 7-0.

**III. Cert. of Executive Session
Memorandum for Sept. 5 & Sept 18, 2023**

Cert. of Exec. Memorandum

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the certification of executive session memorandum for September 5 and September 18, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

**IV. Approval of Corporate Claims
From August 18-September 15, 2023**

Approval of Claims

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to approve the corporate claims from August 18 through September 15, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

V. Special Grant/Donation Approvals

Grant/Donation Approval

A. Indiana Department of Homeland Security Safe Schools Grant (\$50,000 with 25% matching--\$75,000 total grant)

B. Lincoln Street Christian Church (\$300 donation to WRV ES student fund)

C. Loughmiller Machine Tool and Design (\$1,000 donation to WRV HS precision machining)

D. Anonymous (\$300 donation to WRV HS student Fang Gang)

E. Indiana Department of Education Excellence Grant (\$58,000 to WRVSD for Wolverine Enterprises LLC)

Mr. Andy Davis made a motion to approve the grants/donations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

VI. Public Comment

Public Comment

Via Indiana Statute, the public must have the opportunity to speak in public comment. Mr. Hostetter runs this portion of the meeting.

There was no public comment.

VII. Old Business

A. Wolverine Enterprises LLC Report

Wolverine Enterprises

Miss Thomas is here this evening for the first now state honored Wolverine Enterprises LLC Report of the 23-24 school year, and she has brought some quests.

B. Maintenance Report

Maintenance Report

Last Friday was our annual Senior Pride Day, a day where the seniors have many activities, including community service projects. There were a number of small projects accomplished by the Class of 2024, and I want to publicly acknowledge their efforts as a class. You will notice a number of freshly painted areas and beautification projects

completed. We thank our students for doing a great job in taking pride in the school.

As we move toward the selling of bonds, we have some movement on two of our bond projects. As I told you last month, Chriss Jobe has been working on the RFP for the HS paving projects. I met with him regarding the drainage and work in the North lot behind the gym. We hope to put that RFP out in early October. Also tonight, we now have the schedule for the RFP and pre-bid meeting activities surrounding the middle school flat roof project. I put that information in your board packet for tonight. I will remind you that VPS out of Evansville is the firm handling the design under the supervision of Scott Stenftenagel. They will also be getting us the information relevant to the elementary shingle roof in time for the October meeting. It is my goal to have all three RFP's out in October with the bids being collected prior to the November closing date of the bond sale.

As a reminder, the pre-bid meeting for the MS roof project will be Thursday, September 28, 2023 at the middle school at 9:30AM. The bids are due at 1PM on October 12th. The bids will be open and read publicly.

The remaining project piece is with the Gym HVAC system. Mr. Decker and I have been trying to get clarification over the last month from the Indiana State Board of Accounts regarding the Job Order Contract possibilities. We are running into a couple of road blocks involved with this portion of the project. People keep telling us that schools aren't eligible for JOC jobs, but no one can cite any law or documentation saying so. We will continue working on this portion. If we can't get JOC Agreement, my recommendation will be to turn this job into a design build and utilize Mr. Decker's expertise as we move forward. This will be a job that is slated for completion in the Summer of 2024.

In other activity regarding the bond, Mrs. Enochs and I have our meeting with the Bond Rating Company. As you'll remember in the last round of bond sales, we received an A+ rating. We hope to be able to match that rating this time around. We will have that meeting tomorrow morning.

C. Social Media Lawsuit

Social Media Lawsuit

Last month, I included information in your packets regarding the upcoming class action lawsuit being directed at the social media industry. This action is similar to the JUUL lawsuit that we entered and won last year. The suit centers on the problems created by social media for schools and students and includes the targeted advertisements that are used within.

I gave the Board a month to look over the materials and give merit to joining the nationwide lawsuit. There have been a number of Indiana schools join already, including two of our surrounding neighbors. In all transparency, this problem is just as big for us, if

not bigger, than the JUUL situation.

What is the Board's interest level? It would take Board approval for me to sign WRVSD up in support of this proposal; there is no cost involved to us.

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to move forward with the social media lawsuit.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 7-0.

VIII. New Business

A. Adopt 2024 Budget

Adopt 2024 Budget

This moves us to the next agenda item. Tonight, I am asking the Board to adopt our 2024 budget. The 2024 budget will be used on an assessed valuation of \$290,000,000. Our advertised tax rate will be \$1.6373. For comparative purposes, the 2023 budget was advertised at an assessed valuation of \$260,000,00 and a tax rate of \$1.78. Remember, we always advertise high and then the Division of Local Government Finance will review our budget funds. By law, we can cut our advertised rates, but we cannot raise the rates after a budget submission. The 2023 budget numbers ended up being a tax rate of \$.94 from an assessed valuation of just over \$338,000,000. The 2024 budget dept services will be .33. I need the Board to adopt the 2024 budget. By law, the budget CPF and Bus Replacement Plans had to be submitted and published by the state website called Gateway. We also had to post both on our district website ten days prior to the budget hearing, which was September 5th. We held a public hearing on the 2024 budget, the CPF plan, and the 2024 bus replacement plan on September 5th. I would like to recommend the passage of the 2024 budget. This will take a motion.

Mrs. Clea Shake made a motion to approve the passage of the 2024 budget.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

Thank you. Along with adopting the budget, there are a number of resolutions that must be passed in order for us to maneuver within that budget.

*2024 Budget Transfer Resolution

(This allows us to transfer money within funds and between funds.)

*Fall/Spring Budget Hearing Resolution

(This allows us to be able to make changes, adjustments, or reductions to any of the 17 lines of Form 4B.)

*2024 Bus Replacement Plan Adoption Resolution

(This resolution states that we have an adopted Bus Replacement that was given a proper hearing and will be submitted along with the 2024 budget.)

*Rainy Day Fund Transfer Resolution

(This will allow us to transfer up to \$200,000 from any of the funds other than the Education Fund at the end of budget year 2023 to move into the Rainy Day fund at the end of 2024.

***2024 Capital Projects Plan Adoption Resolution**

(This resolution states that we have an adopted Capital Projects Plan that was given a proper hearing and will be submitted along with the 2024 budget.)

* We must also pass the following resolution due to 1009:

****Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education to the Operations Fund on a monthly basis up to \$74,734 (State payments will come solely to the Education Fund and this resolution allows us to transfer to the Operations Fund on a monthly basis.**

***The 2024 Temporary Interest Resolution**

(This resolution lets us utilize temporary interest as a resource in case we need to pick up tax anticipation warrants, which we did when there was uncertainty in 2020.)

These resolutions need Board action to be adopted. You may do them all at once or individually.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to adopt all of the presented resolutions.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 7-0.

We must now take some time to publicly sign all of these resolutions along with Indiana Budget Form 4. Form 4 is the advertised budget notification form that is filed with the DLGF through the Gateway system within the next five days.

**B. Permission to Advertise Snow
Removal Quotes for 203-24**

Snow Removal Quotes

It is getting to be that time of year again. Tonight, I am asking the Board to grant me permission to advertise specifics for our snow removal needs for the 2023-24 winter months.

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the advertising for snow removal quotes.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Davidson. The motion passed 7-0.

I would ask that anyone interested in putting in a quote for this service to our school corporation, please bring it addressed to Dr. Hacker at the Administrative Center by noon on Friday, October 6. Quotes must include services for all three campuses. Quotes can be for a particular building or for the entire district. WRV reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

C. Field Trip Request

Field Trip Request

The high school agriculture department has made an overnight field trip request. Mr. Zuckschwerdt will be taking a group of students to the following destination:

*State Soils Judging Contest @ Benton County on October 20 and 21, 2023. I would recommend that we allow both field trips.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the field trip request.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

IX. Out-of-District Transfer Requests

Transfer Requests

Mr. Hobson has received a request from an out-of-district transfer student. He has done the administrative research and recommends the acceptance of the student. I would recommend the board's approval.

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the out-of-district transfer request.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 7-0.

X. Add Agenda Item-
MS Beverage Contract with Coke

Add Agenda Item

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve adding an agenda item.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Decker. The motion passed 7-0.

The MS would like to start a beverage contract with Coke.

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to approve the MS to start a beverage contract with Coke.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

XI. Personnel

Personnel

A. FMLA Leave

1. Bailey Yoder- WRV MS Grade 6 Teacher

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the FMLA leave for Bailey Yoder.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Davidson. The motion passed 7-0.

B. Resignations/Retirements

1. Bill Gatz-WRV MS Custodian (Effective Oct. 1, 2023)

Mr. Jason Davidson made a motion to accept the retirement of Mr. Bill Gatz.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

2. Debbie Bender- WRV ES Instructional Assistant (Effective Sept. 29, 2023)

Mr. Joe Decker made a motion to accept the retirement of Mrs. Debbie Bender.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Davis. The motion passed 7-0.

3. Other: Dr. Bob Hacker-Superintendent

Mr. Andy Davis made a motion to accept the retirement of Dr. Bob Hacker.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Andy Davis made a motion to allow Dr. Hacker to begin the search for a candidate or Superintendent.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Conner Hill. The motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Bruce Porter voting no.

C. Recommending Appointments

1. Ryan Karr- WRV ES Boys' 5/6th Grade Basketball Coach
2. Katelyn Van Sant- WRV HS Cheerleading Coach
3. Emily Manley- WRV HS Volunteer Assistant Cheerleading Coach
4. Jocelyn Gadberry- WRV HHS Dance Coach

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to approve the hiring recommendations.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cleta Shake. The motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Bruce Porter voting no.

XII. Information

Information

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. End of 1st Grading Period | Friday, October 113, 2023 |
| 2. Fall Break | October 18-29, 2023 |
| 3. Regular Meeting | Monday, October 16 @ WRV MS 7PM |
| 4. Executive Session | Monday, October 16 @ WRV MS 6PM |

5. Superintendent /Principal Office Hours
Appointment from 4-6 PM

Monday, October 2, 2023 by

XIII. Adjournment

Adjournment

Mr. Conner Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Decker. The motion passed 7-0.