

Western School Corporation
Russiaville, IN 46979
March 15, 2011

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Western Board of School Trustees held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Don Wells, Linda Singer, Mike Koloszar, Harry Kenworthy, Jon Marley (arrived at 6:11 p.m.), and J. Conrad Maugans

Members Absent: Jeff Davidson

Others Present: Peter O'Rourke, Abby Rodgers, Randy McCracken, Pam Carter, Taffy Cooke, Dick Taylor, Christy Unger, Rick Davis, and Peter Adelson

Mrs. Singer opened the meeting with prayer and Mr. Kenworthy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #1 – Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Kenworthy called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Item #2 – Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Maugans moved, and Mr. Koloszar seconded that the Board approve the agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

Item #3 – Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Maugans moved, and Mrs. Singer seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the February 15, 2011 regular meeting of the Western Board of School Trustees. The motion passed 5-0.

Item #4 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Item #5 – Panther Pride

Dr. O'Rourke commended the following to the Board:

1. Cora Johnson, 8th grader, WMS's National Geography Bee winner.
2. WHS for receiving the "Growing by Leaps and Bounds" Award from the American Red Cross.
3. WMS for achieving Four Star School status for SY 2009-2010.

Item #6 – Reports

1. Director of Finance: Mrs. Carter submitted the following report:

WESTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION
 TREASURER'S REPORT
 BOARD MEETING 03/15/11

Bank Balance

| | |
|--|----------------|
| CB - Checking Account Balance 02/01/11 | \$4,693,184.64 |
| Non-Revenue Receipts | 267,779.08 |
| MTD Revenue | 1,508,923.99 |
| Disbursements from Clearing Accounts | 275,952.79 |
| MTD Disbursements | 1,867,463.94 |
| Checking Account Balance 02/28/11 | \$4,326,470.98 |

Total Depository Balance 02/28/11 \$4,326,470.98

Vendor Claims Submitted For Approval

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| #58694 – 58716 of 02/16/11 – 02/28/11 | \$539,570.07 |
| #58717– 58824 of 03/01/11 – 03/15/11 | <u>\$417,424.94</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$956,995.01 |

Payroll Claims Submitted for Approval

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| #15 of 02/04/11 | \$467,556.18 |
| #16 of 02/18/11 | <u>\$449,931.18</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$917,487.36 |

 Interest on Checking 01/01/11 to 02/28/11 \$2,569.74

pc

Mr. Wells made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and claim docket. Mr. Maugans seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

- Director of Transportation: Taffy Cooke submitted the following report. Mrs. Cooke also reported that the boardroom cameras are ready for installation as soon as a needed electrical switch becomes available. Mrs. Singer asked if students get under heavy tables as part of the earthquake drill. (Mrs. Cooke indicated that they do.)



Western School Corporation
Taffy Cooke, Director of Transportation, Safety, and Security

March 2011 School Board Meeting

Security

- Update on cameras for board room
- We had four drug dogs here on February 22nd for the middle school and high school. Happily, no drugs were found, but as always is a great deterrent for the students – we are planning to have them back again before spring break, and weather permitting, we will take them through the student lot.
- March 16th – State wide tornado drill
- April 28th – The Great US Shake Out - (our first ever earthquake drill)

Transportation

- We are expecting delivery of our two spvs in early June. We are trading in one spv and retaining the other to be utilized as a service vehicle.

- **Bus inspection was Tuesday, March 8th and I am so pleased at how the whole process went. Initially, we were not looking forward to this new schedule that meant having all buses inspection ready on a school day. But thanks to a great cooperative effort, it was one of the best inspections that I have ever been a part of. We only have one bus that has to be re-inspected and that was because we had to order a blower motor – that repair has been completed and the bus is back on the road. The maintenance staff, Rob, and Janice were all tremendous in helping us have a successful inspection.**

3. Director of Technology: Mr. Taylor submitted the following report:

Technology Director Report

March 9, 2011

Transition to Skyward Our Skyward installation is nearly complete and we are on schedule to begin training our high school and middle school staff for next year scheduling on March 23rd and 24th. We

have scheduled a significant portion of our training of office staff for a couple of days in May and several days during the first two weeks of June. I have been working with Dr. O'Rourke and Bev Austin from the WEA to establish a plan for training our teachers for the new grade book program and I expect that plan to be finalized by next month.

I will be working with the buildings on some data "clean-up" issues prior to our final demographics data conversion which will be submitted to Skyward in mid-May.

On-line Testing

We just started the final phase of preparation for on-line ISTEP+ testing as CTB just released some updated information and practice test data. We will be finalizing the setup and install process of our testing computers in preparation for the upcoming practice tests and will need to complete our final site readiness by April 8th.

The End of Course Assessment Tests (Algebra I, English 10, and Biology) also have some new updates this year and I will be participating in a webinar later this week to prepare for that installation.

State Reporting Update

DOE-CC – This initial reporting of Course Completion data for the first semester is complete with Western reporting 18,970 records. This report and the Certified Positions report will be repeated at the end of the school year.

Other Projects

- I will be finalizing documents for Universal Service discounts for telephone service and web-page hosting and submitting to the erate center.
- We are in the final stages of changing out 40 staff stations in the high school and reconditioning those units for use as student stations in classrooms.
- We have completed most of the purchases that will be paid from the School Technology Advancement Account (STAA) loan that was approved last August. These funds were used to purchase software renewals and replacement computers for the seventh grade lab in order to use some of our CPF dollars for our Skyward purchase.
- The Intermediate and Primary school have new copiers. These two copiers will replace three older copiers and will cut the cost of overages by one-half. We still have a considerable amount of configuration to do to allow teachers to print directly to the copiers from their classrooms.
- I am in the process of moving our written Technology Plan to the on-line format now required by DOE. The on-line format has some additional requirements and I am planning on having this completed by the April 15th deadline.

Mr. Taylor also indicated that he is investigating the possibility of changing our telephone service carrier.

4. Assistant Superintendent: Mr. McCracken submitted the following report:

To: Dr. O'Rourke and Members of the Western School Board
From: Randy McCracken
Re: March Assistant Superintendent Report
Date: March 8, 2011

1. Textbook Adoption Update - The initial plan was to bring the health and science books to the Board this month with final approval in April. Due to the complexity of this year's adoption, we will delay bringing the information to the Board for one month. This will allow the teachers extra time for vertical articulation and to analyze the cost of the materials and the impact to student fees.

The official Mathematics Textbook Adoption was last year but due to the adoption of the Common Core Standards, we chose not to adopt last year and wait for the textbook companies to react to the changes for this year. As of today, we are still waiting for the updated math adoption list from the State. My hope is that we will still be able to bring the math recommendations to the Board in April for final approval in May.

2. High Ability Pilot Update –The goal of this year's High Ability Pilot was to increase opportunities for students' strong in specific academic areas and to allow those students at the top to advance beyond the current parameters of the program. Attached are Steve's and Heather's comments of the Pilot. We would like to continue the structure of the Pilot for the 2011-2012 school year with the identified modifications for grades 1-5.
3. Summer School – Our plans for this year's Summer School Program are similar to last. At the lower grades, we will continue to focus on reading with the addition of math and writing at grades 3-8. At the high school, we will offer Algebra I, Geometry and English for credit recovery. Music/instrumental band will continue to be offered in grades 6-12. Last year summer school was reimbursed at 100%.
4. Curriculum Mapping – Our teachers will soon begin the process of updating all Master Maps. The State has now released their updated Kindergarten maps for English/language arts and math which now contain the Common Core Standards. The English/language arts and math maps for the upper grades should be completed by the State later this Spring. In addition to the maps, the State will provide a crosswalk between the Indiana Academic Standards for English/language arts and math and the Common Core Standards. The crosswalks will be used by our teachers as they update Western's Curriculum Maps to reflect the integration of the Common Core Standards.
5. Primary/Intermediate HVAC Project – The project officially began this week with work in the Primary Mechanical Room. Quality Plumbing began with demolition of the Primary Chiller and pad. This month they will also begin taking out the old boilers and pads and installing the new chiller and pumps. Work will also begin in the evenings with overhead piping and duct rough-ins.

Primary High Ability/Advanced Pilot Program

- The Primary pilot was implemented with 1st grade for the 2010-11 school year. The idea was to pilot the program in 1st grade and if successful to expand it to 2nd grade for the 2011-12 school year.
- Over all, the first grade teachers feel that the pilot has been successful. Here are some teacher comments:
 - First grade teachers, Mrs. Crume and Mrs. Morgan, feel that the new H.A. structure is good for our students. They feel that their students were appropriately placed. Mrs. Crume has students who are identified as high ability reading and math and some students identified as high math only. Mrs. Morgan is working with a combination class of regular education and high reading students.
 - Mrs. Morgan believes that mixing her high ability students with her general education students is benefitting the gen. ed. kids by pushing them to work harder and achieve more.
 - Mrs. Loveless teaches our first grade combined high ability reading and math class. She is concerned about her students tracking together each year as a group. Mrs. Loveless mentioned that several years ago when the Primary had one class of high ability students that stayed together, students developed social and emotional concerns with one another.
 - All teachers agreed that although their students have high academic ability levels, they can still struggle with emotionally and developmentally with self-motivation and independent work habits.
 - The first and second grade teachers would like to revisit vertical alignment to make sure we have students where they need to be in relation to our high ability goals.
 - One teacher thought it would be good to have a reading/language arts chart for high ability through high school like we do for math.
 - I have had one parent complaint from a 1st grade parent. They were disappointed their child was not placed into Mrs. Loveless' classroom. Their child is identified as high ability in Reading and Math but placed into Mrs. Crume's room due to classroom numbers.

Update on High Ability/Advanced Pilot Program

- I have met with various groups over the course of the school year and feel that overall; the High Ability Pilot has gone very well this year.

-Third grade teachers are affected very little by the pilot; the main change in third grade is that we added a 3rd high ability classroom in which students are being advanced in the Language Arts area. Melissa Burkhalter (teacher) has done very well with these 14 students. We will have to wait until we see the results of the Spring testing (CoGAT, IOWA) to see how the numbers shake out to see if the structure will remain the same in third grade for next school year.

-Fourth grade teachers feel that this is the best design for our high ability/advanced students, but do not favor the homeroom (having the students report to their homeroom class in the morning). They would prefer to have the students go to only 2 different classes (one in the morning for Math/Science and one in the afternoon for Language Arts/Social Studies). However, they would still like to have the students mixed for special area classes and lunch. With having our 4th grade teachers split into 2 hallways, they feel that we are losing out on a lot of instructional time with the addition of the "homeroom class."

- Looking ahead to next year, the 4th grade teachers will be "teaming" which means one teacher will teach Math/Science and their partner teacher will teach Language Arts/Social Studies. 4th grade students will go to only 2 teachers for their academic classes. Students who continue to be excelling in only one area (Math or Language Arts) will still have the opportunity to attend the advanced class for just that subject area. We will continue to intermix the students for lunch and special area classes. Additionally, room assignments for teachers have been adjusted so there is limited travel time and consequently, instructional time is not being lost. While not all teachers teaching the same subject area will have a common planning period, there will still be 2-3 teachers who can meet together during their planning time to discuss curriculum/maps. The teachers felt it was advantageous to be meeting with their partner teacher to discuss student concerns and for planning common units.

-Fifth grade teachers love the pilot and feel that we have casted the net to include a lot more students in the high ability program, which they feel has been very positive. They will be keeping the same structure (with the homeroom, morning, and afternoon classes) for next year.

-Special area teachers (teaching music, computers, art, P.E.) feel that the pilot is one of the best things we have done here at the Intermediate. They feel that intermixing the students in homeroom, special areas, and lunch has really allowed our students to branch out socially and has alleviated the "elite status" that our high ability/advanced classes sometimes carried with them.

-I have heard from a few concerned parents about the pilot. These have all been parents of 4th grade students and have voiced concerns with there being too many transitions. They feel like having the students go from one class in 3rd grade to sometimes 3 classes in 4th grade is too much of a transition for these students. Hopefully with the changes mentioned above, that will alleviate any concerns.

Mrs. Singer stated that she was pleased that teachers have had input into the high ability pilot project and that she liked the design which increases socialization opportunities for participating students. Mr. Kenworthy commended all staff members who have taken up the slack in the absence of a maintenance director.

5. Superintendent: Dr. O'Rourke submitted the following report:

2012 & 2013 School Formula Simulation
Same Reductaion in 2011 No Deghoster, Max Prev Year Rev of 120% & 120% Target Rev
No min \$ down, 9 Year Transition Down to Foundation, Adjust 2nd Tier CI, Primetime Ratio upto 1.3

| | 2011 | 2012 | | 2/16/2011 2013 | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | | Estimated | % Inc. | Estimated | % Inc. |
| 3490 Western School Corp | | | | | |
| ADM | 2,483 | 2,483 | 0.0% | 2,483 | 0.0% |
| Adjusted ADM | 2,483 | 2,483 | 0.0% | 2,483 | 0.0% |
| Complexity Index | 1.1083 | 1.1334 | | 1.1334 | |
| State Regular | 12,397,340 | 11,952,045 | -3.6% | 12,005,504 | 0.4% |
| Restore 2009 + State & FCS | 12,397,340 | - | -100.0% | - | 0.0% |
| Restore 2009 3/2 Loss | - | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% |
| Small School Grant | - | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% |
| Total Regular | 12,521,496 | 11,952,045 | -4.5% | 12,005,504 | 0.4% |
| \$/ADM | 5,043 | 4,814 | -4.5% | 4,835 | 0.4% |
| Special Ed | 949,265 | 928,606 | -2.2% | 908,687 | -2.1% |
| Career & Tech Ed | 147,350 | 126,775 | -14.0% | 113,063 | -10.8% |
| Part Time | 228,217 | 245,333 | 7.5% | 263,733 | 7.5% |
| Honors | 72,900 | 73,350 | 0.6% | 73,800 | 0.6% |
| Total | 13,919,228 | 13,326,109 | -4.3% | 13,364,787 | 0.3% |
| \$/ADM | 5,606 | 5,367 | -4.3% | 5,383 | 0.3% |
| Reductions | 692,884 | - | | - | |
| Net State | 13,226,344 | 13,326,109 | 0.8% | 13,364,787 | 0.3% |
| \$/ADM | 5,327 | 5,367 | 0.8% | 5,383 | 0.3% |
| Title I Estimate | 225,771 | 217,445 | -3.7% | 209,742 | -3.5% |
| Referendum Levy | - | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% |

Also, negotiations have begun with the Teacher's Association, with much progress in a focused, cooperative environment.

Mrs. Singer asked questions regarding the current efforts to update the State funding formula.

Dr. O'Rourke distributed information on the proposed new master agreement between the Western Education Association and the Western School Corporation.

Item #7 – GPA Conversion

Mr. Maugans made a motion to approve the request from Mr. Davis, Western High School Principal, to move from the current 12.0 GPA scale to a 4.0 GPA scale. Mr. Marley seconded the motion. Mr. Maugans asked several clarifying questions and Mrs. Singer asked the complexity of the transition process. The motion passed 6-0.

Item #8 – Conflict of Interest

Mr. Wells moved and Mrs. Singer seconded that the Board accept the Conflict of Interest statement submitted by Keith Whitford. The motion passed 6-0.

Item #9 – Personnel

Mrs. Singer made a motion to approve the following personnel actions:

1. Maternity Leave:
 - a. Jessie Chaulk, Middle School 7th grade mathematics
 - b. Janel Baker, Middle School/High School music
2. Resignations:
 - a. Judy Suffield, as Western High School English Department Chair
 - b. Laureline Peschard, Western High School Foreign Language Teacher
3. Resignations Documents:
 - a. Mrs. Glick, Western High School English Teacher
 - b. Mr. Grzesiak, Western School Corporation Maintenance Director
 - c. Mrs. Hatfield, Western School Corporation Custodian

Mr. Koloszar seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Item #10 – Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Maugans made a motion to approve the following donations:

1. From Peter and Kathy O'Rourke for two Western students to attend Hoosier Girls State.

2. From Monsanto to help with the Howard County Agricultural Day program.

Mr. Kenworthy seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Item #11 – Richard R. Rea Scholarship

Mr. Maugans moved and Mrs. Singer seconded that the following recommendations be approved in support of the Richard R. Rea Scholarship program:

- a. Appoint the following officers for 2010: Donna Walden, Jill Newby, and Roselyn Lewis.
- b. Appoint the following members of the Selection Committee: Donna Walden, Jill Newby, and Roselyn Lewis.
- c. Approve \$1,000 as the scholarship award for 2010, renewable for the next three years.

The motion passed 6-0.

Item #12 – Spring Region Meeting

Information on the upcoming ISBA spring region meeting was distributed.

Item #13 – Professional Improvement Requests

Mr. Kenworthy moved and Mr. Wells seconded that the Board approve the following professional improvement requests:

Emily Klingler – 2011 Indiana Dairy Seminar – February 22, 2011 – Indianapolis

Emily Klingler – Monthly Food Service Directors Meeting - February 16, 2011 – Kokomo

Amy Lee – Indiana Speech Language – Hearing Assoc. Annual Convention – March 31-April 1, 2011 – Indianapolis

Karen Keisling – IEP Pilot Training – March 3, 2011 – Franklin, IN

Kelly Wells – IEP Pilot Training – March 3, 2011 – Franklin, IN

Emily Klingler – ISNA Regional Workshop – March 10, 2011 – Lafayette

Erika James – Indiana Speech, Language and Hearing Association Convention – March 31-April 2, 2011 - Indianapolis

The motion passed 6-0.

Item #14 – Board Member Roundtable

1. Mr. Wells thanked Board members for moving the start time for the Friday, March 18, 2011 Special Board Meeting.

2. Mrs. Singer thanked all Board members that attended the recent Boys Basketball Regional event.
3. Mr. Koloszar indicated that he was in confession during an earthquake experience.
4. Mr. Marley requested that the school corporation look at the possibility of a later start time for the high school. He also reported that an upset teacher contacted him regarding some of the current legislative proposals. Mr. Marley also stated that regardless of state positions regarding teachers, that the Western Board is proud of its employees.

Item #15 – Signing of Documents

The proper documents were signed.

Item #16 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.