

Western School Corporation

Russiaville, IN 46979

April 19, 2011

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Western Board of School Trustees held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Don Wells, Mike Koloszar, Harry Kenworthy, Jon Marley, and J. Conrad Maugans

Members Absent: Linda Singer and Jeff Davidson

Others Present: Peter O'Rourke, Abby Rodgers, Randy McCracken, Pam Carter, Taffy Cooke, Dick Taylor, Suzi Morgan and Cindy Lester

Mr. Koloszar 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 6:01 p.m.

Item #2 – Approval of the Agenda

Dr. O'Rourke indicated that he would like to add items to the Panther Pride, Field Trip and Personnel items of the agenda. Mr. Koloszar moved that the Board approve the agenda as amended by Dr. O'Rourke. Mr. Maugans seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Item #3 – Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Maugans moved and Mr. Marley seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011 regular meeting and the March 18, 2011 special 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. Mrs. Irwin, Western Intermediate School, for being selected as a "Most Creative Teacher" for the second year in a row, by the I Love to Read Program.
2. Western's Young Authors, for submitting over 900 books to the Young Author's Conference.

3. Western Primary School's Mrs. Schermer for her feature article in the IDOE mClass February 2011 newsletter.
4. Colten Fowler, Western High School senior for having received a 2011 Community Foundation of Howard County Lilly Endowment Community Scholar award.
5. Brittany Cornelius, Western High School art student for her selection as a finalist in the Heinz ketchup creativity contest.
6. Western's band for its picture in the Purdue Boiler Music Maker Spring 2011 newsletter.
7. Cora Johnson, Western Middle School student, for making it to the final round at the State Geography Bee.

Item #6 – Reports

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

WESTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION
 TREASURER'S REPORT
 BOARD MEETING 04/19/11

Bank Balance

CB - Checking Account Balance 03/01/11	\$4,326,470.98
Non-Revenue Receipts	272,467.02
MTD Revenue	1,350,745.68
Disbursements from Clearing Accounts	236,796.91
MTD Disbursements	<u>1,412,841.18</u>
Checking Account Balance 03/31/11	\$4,300,045.59

Total Depository Balance 03/31/11 \$4,300,045.59

Vendor Claims Submitted For Approval

#58826 – 58846 of 03/16/11 – 03/31/11	\$301,519.98
#58847– 58988 of 04/01/11 – 04/19/11	<u>\$684,729.18</u>
TOTAL:	\$986,249.16

Payroll Claims Submitted for Approval

#17 of 03/04/11	\$459,216.34
#18 of 03/18/11	<u>\$471,865.30</u>
TOTAL:	\$931,081.64

Interest on Checking 01/01/11 to 03/31/11 \$3,852.20

pc

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

2. Director of Transportation: Mrs. Cooke submitted the following report:

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

April 2011 School Board Meeting

Security

- **Cameras now installed in board room - for security purposes, Bill Maki and myself are the only users that have access to them – still working on the audio portion**
- **We had three drug dogs here on the Friday before Spring Break – one from Russiaville and two from the Kokomo Police Department - they did the high school student parking lots (north and south) Again, they did not find anything but as always they draw a lot of attention -**

Transportation

- **April 19th – second semester mass bus evacuation drill**
- **I have begun working on one of my goals for this year which is to have a link on our corporation web page for the Transportation Office. I have been looking at other schools' web sites for ideas as well as working on some information that I want parents to be able to access. As this project develops, I will share with you further.**
- **As I am sure you are aware, a new challenge for us is having Highway 26 closed from 750 W. through the entrance to Honey Creek Hills. We have had to do some re-routing and moving kids to different bus stops – we are also being told that by the beginning of June, the section of 26 east of 750 W. will be closing for several months.**

Mrs. Cooke also mentioned that the Corporation bus mechanic had resigned.

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

Technology Director Report

April 13, 2011

Online Testing

We finalized preparation for online ISTEP+ testing for grades 5 and 8 over spring break. We are conducting practice tests this week and thus far results have been very good. I also updated the software and configuration for End of Course Assessment testing over spring break.

On-line Tech Plan

Indiana is moving to a system where each school's three-year tech plans will be submitted to an on-line version that is to be available to the public sometime over the summer. Our current tech plan for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013 had already been written and approved. However, we had to add some components and do some updating to the plan to meet the on-line criteria. I am happy to report that our updated tech plan has been submitted and approved by the DOE.

E-rate Approval

I have submitted and received our funding approval for e-rate discounts for telephone service and web hosting. We will be moving our digital phone circuit from AT&T to Education Networks of America (ENA). The e-rate discount will amount to a 50% savings on our monthly fees, which is similar to previous years. The decision to move from AT&T to ENA was made based on the following factors:

- Total monthly cost will be the same or less than AT&T
- There will be no long distance fees to anywhere in the continental United States which will eliminate a separate monthly bill and the accounting/time involved in retrieving personal long distance call payments.
- We have had considerable interruptions in our phone service from AT&T that is provided over traditional copper wire with various junction points between here and Russiaville. The ENA service will be over the fiber network that also provides our Internet Connectivity. Our ENA service has been up 99.7% of the time with only one minor outage affecting us during school hours which lasted about one hour.

We will also be moving our web pages to a hosted service over the summer as a result of receiving e-rate approval for web hosting services. This will allow individuals to update building and teacher web sites without having to know how to write html code. We will be using a product from One Technologies, Inc. call Mambo Schools, which is in use by over 250 schools in Indiana.

Other News

- ❖ Our Skyward training for next year scheduling went very well and our high school and middle school are working on schedules for next year. Our next milestone will be on May 13, when we send our complete demographics and medical data for conversion.
- ❖ I am currently working with Karen Keisling to complete the April 1 Special Education report.

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

1. Textbook Adoption (agenda item) - a big task for this year's adoption was to provide quality materials, aligned to the standards, and at an affordable cost to parents and the school corporation. Our teachers this year worked extremely hard to accomplish this task which is reflective in the choices made below.

- Science

- Kindergarten – using current materials and supplementing as needed
- 1st Grade – Discovery Education, this is a digital curriculum
- 2nd Grade – Pearson/Scott Foresman, Indiana Interactive Science
- 3rd Grade – Pearson/Scott Foresman, Indiana Interactive Science
- 4th Grade – Macmillan/McGraw Hill, Indiana Science Essentials Worktext
- 5th Grade – Hampton Brown, National Geographic Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, and Science Inquiry & Writing Book
- 6th – 8th Grade – Holt McDougal/Houghton Mifflin, Indiana Science Fusion: New Energy for Science Worktext
- Biology I/Honors Biology – Pearson, Miller Levine Biology, Indiana Student Edition
- Chemistry I/Honors Chemistry – Pearson, Chemistry Indiana Edition
- Chemistry II – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Chemistry 8th Edition
- Physics – Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, Glencoe Physics: Principles and Problems Student Edition
- Integrated Chemistry/Physics – Pearson, Physical Science: Concepts in Action Indiana Edition by Wyssession
- Microbiology – Pearson/Benjamin Cummings, Microbiology: An Introduction, 10th Edition
- Genetics – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Human Heredity: Principles and Issues
- Anatomy – Pearson, Anatomy & Physiology with Interactive Physiology 10-System Suite
- AP Biology – Pearson, AP Biology by Campbell, 9th Edition

- Health

- Kindergarten – using current materials
- 1st Grade – Macmillan/McGraw Hill, purchasing content readers (10) that will be integrated into the 90 minute reading block. Each chapter focuses on a specific reading strategy that correlates with the Indiana Reading Standards.
- 2nd Grade – Macmillan/McGraw Hill, purchasing content readers (10) that will be integrated into the 90 minute reading block. Each chapter focuses on a specific reading strategy that correlates with the Indiana Reading Standards.
- 3rd Grade – using current materials
- 4th Grade – using current materials

- 5th Grade – using current materials, content from the science adoption, and D.A.R.E. Program
 - 6th – 8th Grade – Glencoe Teen Health, Courses 1, 2, & 3
 - High School – Glencoe/McGraw Hill, Glencoe Health
- Mathematics – This is a continuation of last year’s mathematics adoption. You might remember that we started a little over a year ago with the 2000 Indiana Mathematics Standards, then moved to the 2009 Indiana Mathematics Standards and then/now to the Common Core Mathematics Standards. In a review by the State, it was determined that the 2000 Indiana Mathematics Standards better aligned with the Common Core, so the 2009 Indiana Mathematics Standards were abandoned. As a result, the textbooks that were originally on the adoption list and that were aligned to the 2009 Indiana Mathematics Standards are not appropriate. New textbooks that now align with the Common Core were release by the State on March 8, 2011.
 - Kindergarten – 5th Grade – Due to the late release of the textbooks aligned to the Common Core and the scheduling of presentations by vendors, the elementary recommendations will be presented to the Board in May for a June final approval.
 - 6th – 8th Grades – Holt McDougal
 - Pre-Algebra (High School) – Holt McDougal, Larson Pre-Algebra
 - Algebra I (Middle School and High School) – Holt McDougall, Larson Algebra I Common Core
 - Algebra II – Holt McDougal, Larson Algebra II Common Core
 - Geometry – Holt McDougal, Larson Geometry Common Core
 - Pre-Calculus – Cengage Learning/Brooks Cole, Pre-Calculus Mathematics 6th Edition by Stewart
 - Discrete Mathematics - Cengage Learning/Brooks Cole, Finite mathematics for Managerial, Life & Social Sciences, 10th Edition
 - Probability and Statistics – Using book from 3 years ago when course was started
 - AP Calculus – Single Variable Calculus AP Edition - Book was adopted last year
 - Business Mathematics – Glencoe/McGraw Hill, Mathematics for Business and Personal Finance
2. Primary/Intermediate HVAC Project – The new chiller for the primary is installed along with the new piping and pumps. The chiller should be operational by the end of next week. Once we know we are out of the heating season, the boiler demolition will begin. Overall everything is running smoothly and slightly ahead of schedule. We had one sub-contractor create more dust than planned when taking out some of the pads. Over Spring Break, a company cleaned the air returns and changed out the air handler filters at the expense of the contractor.
3. Current Planning

- Summer School
- Civil Rights Audit Corrections
 - Annual Nondiscrimination Notification
 - Handicap Accessible Signage
 - Non-skid Surface on One Indoor Ramp
- Curriculum Mapping/Curriculum Development
- Waiting on Title I Planning Allocation

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

Superintendent's Report

April 19, 2011

1. Kokomo Area Special Education Cooperative (KASEC)

The seven remaining school corporations – Eastern, Maconaquah, Northwestern, Taylor, Tri Central, Tipton, and Western continue to meet and develop transition procedures in anticipation of Kokomo's withdrawal from KASEC in June 2012.

The "seven" have hired attorney David Day of Church, Church, Hittle, and Antrim to assist them with the legal dimensions of the transition.

The timing of various events is critical. Key issues currently under discussion are:

- a. When Western becomes the Local Education Agency (hopefully NLT July 1, 2011)
- b. An audit of all accounts associated with KASEC (this would protect both Western and Kokomo, the current LEA)
- c. Employment of teachers, contracts, etc.
- d. Employment of administrators.
- e. Inventory and distribution of KASEC assets.
- f. Employment of non-certified staff.
- g. Facilities and transportation.
- h. Division of remaining grant funds and any cash balances at the time that Western becomes the LEA.

The "seven" have also developed a modeling process that produces possible design scenarios for the new KASEC.

The "seven" are working very well together as they adjust to the realities of a decision-making group versus the advisory nature of the organization under Kokomo.

The relationship between the “seven” and Kokomo is, candidly, strained and unproductive. Much suspicion of motives on both sides. Something I worry about when one considers the benefits of a united Howard County education system, run by five equal partners. I would suggest that the Western School Board take a leadership role here and invite the other Board Presidents and Superintendents to a joint luncheon to discuss common interests??? What do you think???

2. Kokomo Area Career Center (KACC) update

I have been involved in a series of meeting with local superintendents and the Ivy Tech leadership personnel regarding vocational course offerings for our students.

My records indicate that KACC has seen a credit cost increase over the last three years as follows:

- a. SY 08-09: \$1,003.66/hr, based on 2,441 students
- b. SY 09-10: \$1,219.64/hr, based on 2,373 students; (21.5% cost increase, 2.7% student decrease)
- c. SY 10-11: \$1,369.71/hr, based on 2,158 students; (12.3% cost increase, 9.0% student decrease)

I have been and continue to be concerned on how we can match our credit cost with the decreases in student enrollment in KACC. This situation is even more painful when one considers that Western received a 3% deduction in state support, a projected flat lining of this support for the foreseeable future and teacher contracts with no increases for five years, (note that the bulk of the cost for vocational education is staff related).

The meetings with Ivy Tech are an opportunity to discuss the possibilities for high school students to participate in Ivy Tech classes, on their campus, for dual credit, at a cost of \$300 per credit hour.

Again, a discussion which would be made more productive in an environment of mutual respect, openness, and candor.

3. Medical Clinic

If you will recall, one of the new concepts in the recently approved Master Agreement between WSC and WEA is the investigation of a possible medical clinic. To that end, I have met with representatives from Howard Regional Medical Clinic, and Dr. Nuss, both of whom are interested in developing a proposal for such a clinic in Russiaville. The next step is to arrange a meeting involving representatives from the WEA.

4. Kindness/Caring Group

I have formed a study group consisting of students, teachers, administrators, parents, pastors and social workers, focused on the development of a mutual program which defines WSC as a magnet school corporation for character and citizenship.

We have developed a draft VISION statement, which I hope to finalize in April 2011 (next meeting is April 12, 2011), then move forward with the more thorny 1st Amendment issues. Our goal is to implement the program in SY 11-12.

5. Howard County 4 Community Effort

For the past three years I have been involved with a group of Howard County leaders dedicated to improving the success percentage of our poorer citizens. One of the neighborhoods identified as a pilot site is our own Pine Valley area.

As of this writing, and through the efforts of the 4 Community Group, the Kokomo Housing Authority (KHA), the Kokomo Mayor and WSC, we now have:

- a. A trolley stop at Pine Valley
- b. A homework tutor provided by KHA
- c. Personal contacts: I have gone door to door meeting kids (we have approximately 60 students in Pine Valley), and their caregivers, encouraging a more aggressive approach to educational opportunities provided.
- d. The planning for a reading intervention exercise this summer provided by WSC.

The hope is that the lessons learned at Pine Valley can be applied to our other poorer neighborhoods, who in total represent some 200 students. When one considers that this population represents around 8% of our total school population, and 32% of our “bottom” quartile, the academic performance of this cohort will have a significant impact on WSC future credentials – i.e. A, B, C, etc.

6. WSC Leadership

Since coming to WSC, I have been convinced that the superintendency here should be perceived as an active, involved, and important one in Howard County educational and social issues. To that end, I have attempted to expand my presence and contribution in the immediate school district and in greater Howard County. For example, I am:

- a. The Chairperson of the Education Committee, for the Kokomo Noon Rotary.
- b. A member of the Russiaville Lion’s Club.
- c. Visible at many WSC events.
- d. A member of the Board of Directors, IUK Advisory Council.
- e. A member of the Board of Directors of the IUK Athletic Council.
- f. A member of the Executive Board of the Howard County United Way.
- g. A member of the Howard County Partners In Education Group.
- h. An active participant in “Welcome to the Real World” and “Living in the Real World” activities.

Each of these venues allows me to increase WSC Corporation’s visibility and contributions to the overall educational efforts of Howard County.

Most recently, I have been named as the “Campaign Chair” for the 2011 Howard County United Way Campaign. Thus far I have had the opportunity to visit with the heads of 16 agencies that support the needs of kids and parents, and will, over the next several months meet with the CEO’s of 25 major businesses in our area.

7. Thoughts on Legislation

I have been relatively silent on the legislative process this year, but I thought I would share a few comments:

- a. As the revenue picture continues to become more and more unpredictable, I felt and feel, that the best WSC could do was to make the expenditure side as stable as we could – thus the 5 year Master Agreement with the WEA.
- b. Vouchers: The non-partisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA) estimates the fiscal impact of every bill. For HB1003, LSA has stated that the tuition support reduction for school corporations and charter schools would total \$2.9M for 714 scholarship-eligible students. By projection this figure to the cap of 7500 students in the first year, Indiana will divert \$30M from public schools to private schools in SY 11-12. Then, the savings to the state will be redistributed to ALL schools through the funding formula, not just to the schools which the voucher students vacated.
- c. The voucher bill states that an eligible school “is accredited by either the state board OR a national or regional accreditation agency that is recognized by the state board (like the American Association of Christian Schools and Independent Schools Association of the Central States). Also, there is no state review of the accreditation procedures of religious associations.
- d. I am not opposed to expanding the envelope on the “how” of educating young citizens (i.e. more charter schools, vouchers, etc.). I am opposed to experimenting in a time of very scarce resources, the results of which impacts on the public schools ability to do its job.
- e. Why is America currently so convinced that the institutions that made us strong and the envy of the world: churches, schools, municipal servants like police officers and firemen, etc. are no longer needed? In my opinion public schools have been the bedrock of our democracy and the centers of our communities.
- f. If statewide tuition support is straightened for 4 years at the 2010 distribution level, this will represent a cut to public schools since inflation, health insurance, utilities, etc. will continue to increase.
- g. The potential loss of the circuit breaker grant in HB1001 is a major concern.
- h. Cuts in the non-English speaker grant (forecasted to be 28%) are problematic.

Item #7 – Investment Status

Mrs. Carter provided the current status of corporation investments.

Item #8 – Bond Refinancing

Mrs. Carter informed the Board the refinancing of the Western School Building Corporation First Mortgage Refunding Bonds Series 2011 was successfully completed on March 16, 2011.

Item #9 – Credit Report from S&P

Mrs. Carter provided the results of a discussion she and Dr. O'Rourke had with Standard and Poor, which resulted in the corporation receiving an A+ credit rating for the school, by itself, without any state back up.

Item #10 – State Board of Accounts Audit

Dr. O'Rourke and Pam Carter provided the Board with a copy of the State Board of Accounts report on an audit performed for the time period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010.

Item #11 – Resolution to Transfer Appropriation

Mr. Wells made a motion to approve a resolution to transfer appropriation between classifications in the Western Middle School 2011 CPF Plan. Mr. Marley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Item #12 – Textbook Recommendations

Mr. McCracken provided a list of recommended textbooks to the Board for their review. Approval of the textbook list will be an agenda item for the May 2011 Board meeting. Mr. Marley engaged Board members, administrators, and Suzi Morgan, Primary School Teacher, in a discussion regarding the use of technology versus textbooks in the classroom.

Item #13 – Bona Vista Field Trip

Mr. Kenworthy moved and Mr. Maugans seconded , that the Board approve a request to allow Bona Vista to use two corporation buses for a field trip to Indiana Beach on June 8, 2011. The motion passed 5-0.

Item #14 – Field Trip Requests

Mr. Marley made a motion to approve the following field trips:

1. High School Foreign Language (Japanese Class)students to the Mitsuwa Market (Chicago), on April 29, 2011.
2. Western Middle School Middle Ages History Class to Chicago, June 8, 2011.
3. Panther Tech for competition, April 27-31, 2011, St. Louis, MO.

Mr. Wells seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Item #15 – Personnel

Mr. Wells made a motion to approve the following personnel actions:

1. Maternity Leave:
 - a. Audrey Dailey, for SY 11-12
2. Recommendations for Employment:
 - a. Dan Heulton, Temporary Choir Director to the end of SY 10-11
 - b. Nicholas Fogle, Western High School Custodian, effective April 1, 2011
 - c. Brayton Mendenhall, Dance Corp/Winter Guard, SY 10-11
3. Resignations:
 - a. Marilyn Piekarski, Western Middle School Kitchen, effective April 29, 2011
 - b. Kristina Reutemann, Western Middle School Custodian, effective March 25, 2011
 - c. Rob Bales, Corporation Bus Mechanic, effective April 15, 2011
 - d. Audrey Dailey, Western High School Student Council Advisor, as of end of SY 10-11
 - e. Erin Meredith, Western High School teacher, effective June 10, 2011
 - f. Nicholas Fogle, Western High School Custodian, effective April 18, 2011

Mr. Koloszar seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Item #16 – Conflict of Interest

Mr. Maugans made a motion to approve the uniform conflict of interest disclosure statement submitted by Larry Wimmer. Mr. Kenworthy seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Item #17 – NEOLA

Dr. O'Rourke submitted the following new/revised/replacement policies to the Board for first reading: 0142.3; 0167.1; 2260; 2260.01; 3122; 3217; 4122; 4217; 5111; 5111.01; 5111.02; 5463; 5630.01; 5772; 6150; 7217; 8450; 9160; 9270

Item #18 – Professional Improvement Requests

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

Wendi Campbell – Meeting with the State Literacy Specialists – IDOE – March 23, 2011

Dick Taylor – Managing Mobile Devices in Education – Central Indiana ESC – April 15, 2011

Charisse Smith – FACS Professional Development Conference – Indianapolis –April 13, 2011

Kelly Tuberty – Meeting with the State Literacy Specialists – IDOE – March 23, 2011

Kristi Leap – Conference on Homelessness – Indianapolis – May 13, 2011

Judy Sand – Meeting the Needs of All – Indianapolis – May 13, 2011

Sarah Stapleton – FACS Professional Development Conference – April 13, 2011

Emily Klingler – Commodity Bid Opening – Frankfort – April 15, 2011

Emily Klingler – Site Visit to MSD – Martinsville – April 21, 2011

Emily Klingler – Comalex Users Meeting – Fishers – May 3, 2011

Emily Klingler – ISNA Spring Training – Plainfield – May 20, 2011

Lissa Stranahan – IDOE Discipline Model – WVEC – April 11, 2011

Lissa Stranahan – Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy – Indianapolis – April 20-21, 2011

The motion passed 5-0.

Item #19 – Board Member Roundtable

1. Mr. Maugans thanked Dr. O'Rourke for all of his efforts at involving Western in Howard County wide educational and community activities.
2. Mr. Koloszar complimented the Western Band on its performance at a recent Western/Purdue joint concert.
3. Mr. Kenworthy complimented Western students who represented the corporation well at a recent volunteer banquet at St. Joseph Hospital.

Item #20 – Adjournment

The proper documents were signed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.