

WEST BEND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Education Service Center
735 South Main Street
West Bend, WI 53095

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 6, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of West Bend Joint School District No. 1 was called, noticed, and held in the manner required by the school board and pertinent Wisconsin Statutes on Monday, January 6, 2020 in the Education Service Center Board Room located at 735 South Main Street, West Bend, WI 53095.

Members present – Joel Ongert, Kurt Rebholz, Nancy Justman, Tonnie Schmidt, Chris Zwygart, Erin Dove, and Paul Fischer.

Board President Joel Ongert called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Mr. Ongert made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Justman. Motion carried 7-0.

Student Reports – Reports on events and activities at West Bend West were reported by Jim Miller and at West Bend East by Emily Huesemann.

Public participation – The public was provided the opportunity to address the Board on any issue. The following individuals addressed the board: 1) Madelyn Aamodt, 739 Creekwood Lane, West Bend, spoke on funding for forensics at East High School; 2) Sam Campbell, 5207 High Ridge Trail, West Bend, spoke on funding for debate and forensics and co-curriculars at high schools; 3) Noah Doedens, 5228 Red Cedar Court, West Bend, spoke on the funding for band and co-curriculars at the high schools; 4) Rick Fechter, 1510 Ravine Forest Drive, West Bend, spoke on the status of the aging facilities of the district and what the next steps are; 5) Linda Granec, 1174 Auburn Road, West Bend, spoke against any cuts in funding for forensics/debate at the high schools; 6) Nicole Heller, 1902 Tumbleweed Circle, West Bend, spoke against any cuts in funding for forensics/debate at the high schools; 7) Emily Kolb, 5243 High Ridge Trail, West Bend, spoke against any cuts in funding for forensics/debate at the high schools; 8) Craig Larsen, 3501 Lusan Drive, Cedarburg (Town of Jackson), spoke about how the district should help prepare students for adulthood; 9) Jason Miller, 754 Juniper Court, West Bend, expressed his concern about the “low” funding of music department in high schools; 10) Rachel Granec, 1174 Auburn Road, West Bend, spoke against any cuts in funding for forensics/debate at the high schools; 11) Caitlin Marsch, 1005 Decker Drive, West Bend, spoke about how all funding for forensics, debate, and band should remain the same; 12) Lance Guttormson, 1705 Woodridge Road, West Bend, spoke about the importance of clubs and co-curriculars at the high schools and how funding should remain the same.

Response to Public Participation – Superintendent Kirkegaard commented that he doesn't believe that funding for these groups was cut. He explained that what could have happened was that the funding was redistributed. He also explained that organized sports are funded at a different level than clubs/co-curricular.

Mrs. Justman explained that any cuts in this type of funding is now a board decision. She and Mr. Ongert asked that Superintendent Kirkegaard give her more information such as the amount in the budget and if there were cuts and how the decision was made.

Clerk's Report – School Board Clerk Tonnie Schmidt provided a reminder that the paperwork to run for the open school board seats in the April 2020 election is due on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Action Item – Mrs. Justman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Zwygart, to pull out two items on the Consent Agenda for discussion. Motion carried 7-0.

iii. Administrator Contracts

iv. Retirement

Mr. Ongert moved, seconded by Mr. Zwygart, to approve the revised consent agenda:

i. Minutes of the December 9, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and December 16, 2019 Special Board Meeting

ii. Disbursements Posted to January 6, 2020

Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Justman asked Human Resources Director Lenny Hanson to answer why the school district offers an administrator who has been in the position for less than six months a two-year contract. Mrs. Justman felt this was not the norm in the business world.

Hanson explained that according to state statute, if a board does not approve a new contract for one or more administrators by January 31, the contract automatically rolls over to a new contract on June 30. The contracts up for approval this evening are for administrators whose contracts end on June 30, so they have to be approved or not approved by January 31. He also explained that this is very common practice in area school districts.

For item iii. Administrator Contracts, Mr. Ongert moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Rebholz. The motion carried 6-1 with Mrs. Justman voting "no."

In regard to item iv. Retirement, upon this person's retirement, Mrs. Justman commended the employee for their dedication and hard work for the school district for many years.

For item iv. Retirement, Mr. Ongert moved, seconded by Mr. Zwygart, to approve the retirement. Motion carried 7-0.

2020-2021 Open Enrollment Capacity – Assistant Superintendent Laura Jackson presented the recommendation for 2020-2021 Open Enrollment Capacity. Mrs. Jackson explained that state statute stipulates that all school districts must each year to set capacity numbers. The WBSD's open enrollment capacity is two less than full capacity for each grade level and program. This allows for students who are residents of the district to have an open seat if they choose.

The board discussed and asked questions about the reasoning behind two less and the process for open enrollment.

Mr. Zwygart made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Open Enrollment Capacity, seconded by Mr. Fischer. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Policy Actions – Mrs. Schmidt moted to approve the Deletion of Board Policy 343.1 Instructional Organization, with a second from Mr. Ongert. Motion carried 7-0.

In the second reading of several revised board policies, board members requested some wording changes on policy 343.2 Class Size so no action was taken and it will be brought back for a third reading.

New Board Policy 536.5 Reduction in Force: Mr. Zwygart moved to approve, Mrs. Justman seconded, motion passed 7-0.

Revised Board Policy 342.1 Instruction of Students with Disabilities: Mr. Ongert moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Fischer, motion passed 7-0.

Revised Board Policy 342.12 Independent Educational Evaluation: Mr. Zwygart moved to approve, Mr. Ongert seconded, motion passed 7-0.

Revised Board Policy 343.5 Charter School Requests: Mr. Zwygart moved to approve, Mr. Ongert seconded, motion passed 7-0.

Revised Board Policy 343.6 Instructional Planning: Mr. Zwygart moved to approve, Mrs. Dove seconded, motion passed 7-0.

Revised Board Policy 672.12 Reimbursement of Travel Allowance and Other Expenses Out-of-District. Mr. Ongert moved to approve, Mr. Fischer seconded, motion passed 7-0.

2021-2022 School Year Calendar – Director of Continuous Improvement Jennifer Gennerman presented the calendar for final discussion and vote.

Mrs. Gennerman reminded the board that a survey of staff showed the majority approved "Option 2," which includes professional day in October and in January.

Mrs. Justman moved to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar, seconded by Mr. Ongert. Motion passed 7-0.

Revision to 2020-2021 School Year Calendar: Mrs. Gennerman explained that a revision was made to the calendar to make Indigenous People's Day a day off for students. Another day off that was in October was changed to a regular day. Indigenous People's Day will be a professional day for staff.

Mr Ongert moved to approve the revision to 2020-2021 School Year Calendar, and Mr. Fischer seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Discussion – Mr. Ongert reported that he and Mr. Kirkegaard will attend the Wisconsin Association of School Board Convention in two weeks.

There are several resolutions up for a vote at the event. Mr. Rebholz singled out Resolution 2010, Native American mascots. This calls for schools with a Native American mascot to retire them. Mr. Rebholz felt this decision should be up to the school district and not something that is forced by a resolution.

2020-21 Capital Projects – Director of Facilities Dave Ross presented the list of 2020-2021 Capital Projects list. This is done at this time of year because a lot of the projects are completed in the summer.

In the past, the capital projects budget has increased 4 percent. This year there is a larger increase for a total of \$2.1 million. The projects are primarily concentrated at the high schools building. In fact, the new library accounts for about half the budget. The HVAC control system in the high school music wing is out of date and will be upgraded. Other projects include parking lot maintenance, concrete repair, and roofing.

Mr. Fischer asked about an item on the list that was lighting retrofitting. He asked if it was a single building or district-wide. Mr. Ross said they have to decide where they start first, but it will eventually be district-wide.

Mr. Ongert asked Mr. Ross about the bidding process for the projects, which all have to be bid, which is procedure. He also asked Mr. Ross what projects are not on the list that he wishes he could have but doesn't have the funds.

Mr. Ross said the district has been really good at keeping things going for "one more year" with elementary schools. But he's feeling uneasy about them. In Jackson, every rooftop unit, the boiler, and the roof have all exceeded life expectancy. As Mr. Ross said, "It's starting to get a little unnerving."

Mr. Kirkegaard said he and Mr. Ross will go to all the buildings in the near future and look at all things cosmetically that may need to be improved. Also in the near future, Mr. Ross will visit Slinger, Port Washington, and Mukwonago to review their library remodels.

Mr. Ross said the district is holding off on front entrance of Decorah Elementary until they complete the new 25-year facilities plan.

Superintendent Report – East and West are planning a Virtual Day for March 3 for freshmen, sophomores, and seniors. (Juniors will take the ACT.) They are doing this to count the day as a day of school.

Mr. Kirkegaard will present to the Jackson Village Council on January 14.

In preparation for the January 20 Committee of the Whole meeting, next week we will send to all board members a series of questions to help them consider where to go with facilities and get their thoughts on this. We also need their feelings on doing another referendum.

Mr. Fischer asked Mr. Kirkegaard how the security changes are working out at the high schools meeting. Mr. Kirkegaard reported that they have done well. One security guard has been hired. They do not have any applicants for the security/safety coordinator position yet.

Mrs. Justman requested of Mr. Kirkegaard that at the February 3 school board meeting that the board gets an update on Standards-based Grading that is being piloted at the high schools. She would like to know how it is working out, what other school districts use it, and how it is preparing students for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonnie Schmidt, Clerk