

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

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
March 9, 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, March 9, 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, Chris Zwygart, Erin Dove, and Paul Fischer.

Member excused absent: Tonnie Schmidt

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Joel Ongert. He also made a motion to approve the agenda with Ms. Justman seconding. Motion passed 6-0.

There were a number of recognitions for student-athletes in winter sports who qualified for state or won state championships.

The board recognized Jim Miller for receiving an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point.

The East and West High Schools Athletic Booster Clubs provided an update. They will team up for a golf fundraiser on August 17. They will use the funds to construct a new trophy case for all state-level trophies to be placed in the South Gym hallway. They also will pay to improve the small hallway between the South Gym and the fieldhouse.

Superintendent Kirkegaard provided the board with an update on the WBHS Band trip that was scheduled to take place over spring break to Italy. Due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Duckert-Kroll is reviewing several other location options. The recommendation is to table the decision on where to go while Mrs. Duckert-Kroll determines if refunds are possible for those that don't want to go. This matter will be brought back to the board at a later date.

In addition, other international trips to Peru and Germany for high school students are being reviewed due to coronavirus pandemic.

Public Participation

Jody Geenen, candidate for school board, addressed the review process of the proposed ninth-grade biology book.

Actions Items

Consent Agenda – Mr. Zwygart made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Fischer. Motion carried 6-0.

Ice Bears Boys Ice Hockey Co-op: Living Word Lutheran High School will drop out from the co-op and Kewaskum High School will join. Ms. Justman made the motion to approve the co-op and Mr. Zwygart seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Brian Grunwald and Director of Finance Andy Sarnow presented the 2018-2019 Audit Report. Mr. Sarnow said his staff will address a few small things. They provided a “snapshot” of long-term debt. Mr. Ongert motioned to approve the 2018-2019 Audit Report. Ms. Dove seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Fischer was appointed the acting clerk for the meeting.

New Biology book for Ninth Grade: Assistant Superintendent Laura Jackson provided the background on the book. The board discussed whether the number of people who asked to review the book was common.

Mr. Fischer asked if Wisconsin standards require teaching about climate change. Ms. Jackson said yes. Mr. Fischer also asked if a formal review was required according to policy. Two people asked to review the textbook.

Mr. Ongert motioned to approve the purchase of new ninth-grade biology books. Mr. Zwygart seconded. Mr. Rebholz said he approved of the book. The motion carried 6-0.

Middle School Course Revision: This is a change in the number of days students in eighth grade attend world language. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Zwygart to approve the revision and it was seconded by Mr. Fischer. The motion carried 6-0.

Out of State and Out of Country Field Trips: The board was asked to table the decision on the band trip for April 2020 and approve two other trips for competitions in the 2020-2021 school year. Most trips are approved at least one year in advance.

Ms. Justman asked if the board and its policy committee can consider splitting the policy to address out-of-state competitions and out-of-country trips separately.

Ms. Justman motioned to approve the competition trips. Ms. Dove seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Head Start Grant Self-Assessment: Early Learning Principal Emily Melstrand and Head Start Coordinator Matt Durant presented the Head Start Self-Assessment, which is an annual event. The details shared include what is going on in Washington County and also in our particular program.

One area they have targeted is getting the kids dental care. They are concerned about the number of children who are overweight and are implementing information on how to reinforce healthy practices for parents and children.

Mr. Ongert moved to approve the HeadStart Self-Assessment. Mr. Fischer seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

The board will hold a work session on March 16 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss facility needs. This is not a committee of the whole meeting. Mr. Ongert moved to approve the work session and Mr. Fischer seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Second Readings: The board will complete these as third readings at the next board meeting because all seven members must be present to complete this.

Deletion of Board Policy 345.4b Retention: Mr. Zwygart motioned to approve the deletion of this policy and Ms. Justman seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Discussion:

First Reading of Revised Board Policies 345.6 Graduation Requirements, 345.61 Early Graduation, 345.62 Commencement, 352 Field Trips, and 352.1 Extended Trips.

The board discussed the wording of 345.61 Early Graduation. It will go back to the policy committee for more discussion.

The board also discussed Deletion of Board Policies 351 Summer School and 353.2 Instructional Methods.

Teacher Compensation Model: Lenny Hanson, director of human resources, presented the new model. A future meeting will devote more time to look at all its details and the board will vote on it after that. Hanson went over the goals of attracting and retaining great teachers, as well as high student achievement.

He also explained more about the model and why it was necessary to implement. He also explained why the old model was not effective in some areas and how it had a negative impact on culture.

Two features of the new model are salary increases across the board and expertise pay, or recognize how people work to gain expertise.

Superintendent Kirkegaard reported on how the schools are preparing for possible changes due to coronavirus/COVID-19.

Mr. Rebholz asked for an update on the Superintendent search. Mr. Sarnow updated that there are 11 completed candidates, but the number is expected to grow due to applicants in process. Thursday, April 2nd is the target date to meet regarding the candidates.

Mr. Fischer moved to adjourn and seconded by Mrs. Justman Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Fischer  
Acting Clerk