

Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Willow Springs School Library

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Kent.

Acceptance of the Superintendent's Agenda

Motion 15-185 by Ristić, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Audience Participation

Lori Smuda, Principal, Teachers: Amanda Lascola, Andrea Traut & Mary Jo Reyes, Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause.

Financial Report

The Auditor's report for the month of January was handed out at the meeting. Nick Cavaliere was here to answer questions.

Minutes

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes as amended from the Regular Board Meeting for January 26, 2016.

Motion 15-186 by Weeg, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes as amended from the Regular Board Meeting on January 26, 2016.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Abstain: L McSweeney & Ristić

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting for January 30, 2016.

Motion 15-187 by Ciota, seconded by Estrada as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on January 30, 2016.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and L McSweeney

Abstain: Ciota & Ristić

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 15-188 by Kent, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the consent agenda.

Consent #1

The superintendent recommends the approval of the payroll and the approval of the bills in the amount of \$203,806.71 (7A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$64.00 (7B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$59,421.90 (7C) for the month of February 2016.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of January 2016. Fund balances: Educational: \$3,760,152; Operations & Maintenance: \$590,927; Debt Service: \$338,968; Transportation: \$75,476; IMRF: \$188,502; Capital Projects: \$81,831; Working Cash: \$449,914; Tort: \$442,946; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$471.

Consent #3

The superintendent recommends that the superintendent be directed to prepare the budget for fiscal year 2017.

Consent #4

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the \$50 donation from the Bridgeview Lions Club.

Consent #5

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the Honorable Dismissal Sequence List as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney.

Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 1 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education Issues at this time.

1. From Education Week, an article discussing the score discrepancy on the PARCC exam between those who took it online and those who didn't. More concerning to the superintendent than the apparent discrepancy is Pearson's failure to recognize this as an issue.

A-b. 1 newspaper and articles related to Willow Springs School.

1. Our listing in the Des Plaines Valley News for Kindergarten screening and registration.

A-c. 0 newspaper and articles related to early childhood education.

Item 8B Legislative/SCOPE report: 2 Items.

1. Included are 2 Alliance Legislative Reports. Both items discuss the Governor's State of the State Address. Despite the apparent reaching out, it appears we will still be held captive by the Springfield politics. It doesn't appear the Governor is willing to negotiate at all, despite universities having to lay off 100s of employees.
2. The Governor delivered his Budget Address on February 17. The superintendent included both the Alliance Legislative Report for that and the IASA Capitol Watch, which has a bit more interpretation. At face value, it looks promising for K-12 education, but who's to say at this point.

Item 8C State Board of Education Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 8D Illinois Association of School Boards Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 8E AERO Correspondence items: 0 Items.

Item 8F EBC Health Insurance Co-op Correspondence items: 0 Items.

Item 8G Village of Willow Springs Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8H County Clerk Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8I Intermediate Service Center Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8J Township Treasurer Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 8K

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 0 item.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 1 items.

1. A copy of a note sent to Elliot Van Wagner thanking him for sharing his video with the Board at the January meeting.

Item 8K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 0 item

Item 9 Special Education

Cindy reported the following:

Frank Jurasy a Board member passed away.

Principal's Report

Principal Smuda reported:

Solo Ensemble had 13 1st place and 3 2nd place winners.

The 3rd – 5th grades are participating in a reading puzzle challenge. The principal set up seven different posters into 80 pieces each. Students that pass an Accelerated Reader test at 8% or higher are able to pick one piece to piece the puzzle back together. Although

there was not a challenge between grades, the students have created one. Third grade girls finished their poster on Friday the 12th with 4th grade boys right on their heels! It's all positive fun!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss birthday with the whole school all reading at the same time for 10 minutes.

Formal evaluations of teachers are all done.

Midterm pick-up and Parent/Teacher Conferences were last Monday the 15th. A copy of the Parent Conference Evaluation Form was included in the packet with comments from some of the parents. The average of all forms equal 4.83 showing the Parent Teacher Conferences were "Highly useful".

The Honor Roll assemblies were a big, celebratory hit!!! When the principal announced each name, she tried to mirror a professional basketball line up. Then the students ran by the staff while giving high fives to each one. Junior high students on the gold and blue honor rolls were able to play a Minute-to Win-it game versus the staff. The photos are posted outside of Mr. Weissenstein's room. Stop by to see the student's faces.

Carina Flores and the principal also honored the K-3rd students that had perfect attendance or straight A's! They wore goofy hats and sunglasses and shook tambourines while handing out certificates.

Registration for ARGO High School began this week for 8th grade students. Parents were encouraged to attend Friday's session to get involved in selecting their child's high school courses.

Class Size Information

Enrollment remains steady, but still many ins and outs.

Item 12A FY2015 Audit Report Follow-Up

The superintendent sought clarification on the 2 material weaknesses that are listed in the FY15 Audit.

1. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The superintendent misunderstood this weakness. It is not about Nick's role for the District as a financial consultant. It is about having an internal department that is able to review the books, apply the new accounting rules, and present the books for the audit.

To eliminate this weakness, the District would need to hire a CPA to serve in this function. This CPA would have to be an employee and not a consultant.

As the weakness notes, most Districts our size do not employ such an individual and would, therefore, have this as a weakness. This statement appears on an overwhelming majority of all school district audits.

2. Monitoring of Outsourced Operations

This weakness addresses our relationship with the Township Treasurer's Office (TTO). With the new financial software (remember that the FY15 Audit is under the old financial software system), some of the bullet items will be taken care of automatically. The superintendent will work with the TTO over the course of the next year to try to reduce the number of areas in weakness. The superintendent

was advised that as we do outsource this (as required by law), that there will always be something here and that this weakness if found in audits for other Township Treasurer's clients as well.

Item 12B Policy Updates, First Reading

Time for another update! The summary sheets are in the packet. There's a lot to read there. There are quite a few changes. Some of them language clean-up (teacher certification to teacher license). Some of them are more extensive: suicide prevention and No Child Left Behind clean-up.

This is the first reading. The 2nd reading and approval will be at the March meeting.

Item 12C PARCC Testing

The PARCC testing is quite different this year. There will be just one test window with slightly fewer test sessions than last year. We will start testing when we return from Spring Break. All but 5th and 6th grades will do the test online. We will use only the Chromebooks for testing.

Item 12D Grades 6-8 Schedule

There was a parent meeting on Wednesday, February 17 at 6pm to explain to parents the changes we've planned for next year. The meeting was attended by 15 parents. The proposal was favorably received.

As a reminder, as we look at the academic program and our needs, we need to increase the number of math minutes our 6-8th grade students receive. At 43 minutes, we're about 12 minutes short of the State average per day. The Eureka math program is designed for a 60 minute instructional period. Our math test scores are not always what we'd like them to be. So increasing the number of math instructional minutes seems to be an appropriate response.

Of course, this comes with a cost: shorter art, music and Spanish (for 1 semester) periods. And it requires an additional part-time math instructor, at an estimate of \$25,000.

At this point, I'm recommending moving forward with the plan. As the changes to the curriculum are minor, I don't think there's anything curricular to vote on, though we could if the Board would like. But the superintendent would like to be directed to advertise for part-time math instructor.

The superintendent recommends that a half-time math instructor be sought for the 2016-2017 school year to increase the number of math instructional minutes provided to 6-8th graders.

Motion 15-189 by Kent, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent to hire a half-time math instructor for the 2016-2017 school year to increase the number of math instructional minutes provided to 6-8th graders.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Item 12E Special Education Preschool

From the January 30 special meeting packet:

Tuition this year for our students in AERO Preschool programs is \$22,772 per student. Currently, we have 8 students in that program resulting in tuition charges of \$182, 176.

Our enrollment in the program has been:

FY13: 8

FY14: 5

FY15: 8

FY16: 9

The cost of a teacher (BA with 5 years of experience) \$46, 576 + \$12k in benefits

\$58,576.

A paraprofessional, \$20,000 + \$12K in benefits, \$32,000.

Classroom staff would cost, \$90,576.

The students receive speech/language and social work services. Both our speech language therapist and social worker believe they can handle the increased case load within their current schedules.

The students also receive adaptive PE. This is an additional cost to the AERO tuition and we would continue purchasing that service from AERO at the same cost.

In estimating the cost of purchasing materials and furniture for the program, the superintendent guesses between \$2500-5000. Most of it a onetime cost.

Based on the current tuition:

3 students: \$68,316

4 students: \$91,088

5 students: \$113,860

6 students: \$136,632

7 students: \$159,404

Any enrollment above 4 students would be a savings to the District.

If the program would occur today, we would have 5 students in it. There is also the potential of allowing Sahs School to tuition in a student or 2.

The superintendent recommends creating a special education preschool program to serve District 108 students and to seek an appropriately licensed teacher for the program.

Motion 15-190 by Weeg, seconded by Estrada as recommended by the superintendent we create a special education preschool program to serve District 108 students and to seek an appropriately licensed teacher for the program.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the special education preschool teacher job description.

Motion 15-191 by McSweeney, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent to adopt the job description for the special education preschool teacher.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Item 12F Gym Floor Replacement Project

The team at ARCON is putting together the bid documents, and we're finalizing the details.

The biggest concern and work is centering on the bleachers.

1. Moving the scorekeepers to the bleacher side is not as practical as you would think. The teams are required to sit on the same side as the scorekeepers to assist with going in and out of the game. They'd have to sit in the front row of the bleachers. That would be very cumbersome for the players and for the audience to have to work around.
2. With the new ADA compliance issues, we're working to maximize the seating in the bleachers. It's substantially less than we currently seat. The superintendent shared some options.
3. There is also concern about the stage feet not being large enough to really distribute the weight of the stage without damaging the floor. The superintendent shared some options.
4. The Board asked what other equipment in the gym might need replacement. The yellow divider screen would be high on the list. As far as other fixed equipment goes, the backboards were installed in 1995. The scoreboard is from 1993-94. The Volleyball standards and nets are from 2003-04 (these are beginning to get warped). None of these items are floor dependent.
5. The superintendent is planning on painting the walls below the thick blue line. The same white, just to freshen it up. I think the walls will look worn when the floor is new.

Item 12G Bookkeeper Job Description Revision

In getting ready to replace Marilyn Miller in the office, the job description needed to be retooled. Primarily, the superintendent is asking that the position be a 12 month position. Currently, it's a 10 month position and we pay for extra days over the summer. It comes to a 12 month position anyway. The superintendent is collecting comps in the area for starting salaries, and imagine it will be in the low to mid \$40k range. Once the changes are approved, the superintendent will post the position.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the revised Bookkeeper Job Description.

Motion 15-192 by McSweeney, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent to adopt the revised job description for the Bookkeeper.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Item 12H District 2016 Goals

The superintendent organized the wish list generated on January 30th into categories. We can prioritize which ones to focus on for 2016.

Curriculum

- Teach keyboarding (when? How?)
- STEM co-taught with math and science (consultant brought in?)
- Offer foreign language prior to 6th grade (after school club?)
- ~~More active/busy kids~~ – we have created more afterschool clubs
- Expand the band program
- Extending the school day – contract issue – so we will wait till next school year when the contract ends
- 1:1 devices – we will work toward
- Make sure the curriculum is driving the use of 1:1 devices
- Continue to strengthen the curriculum to meet the needs of the New Illinois Learning Standards (Common Core)
- Increase test scores focusing on MAP for consistency but with an eye on PARCC
- Maintain small class sizes, the best intervention
- Continue to expand the offerings of the Triezenberg Library

Building/Facility

- Install an athletic field
- Create a road/drive from parking lot to Vinewood
- Replace other aging gym equipment – started on this
- Install video surveillance
- Wifi at Sterling
- Install an electronic sign outdoors
- Replace the gym floor and bleachers – started on this
- Stainless steel railing installed on external stairs
- Update bathrooms in 1954 and 1975 buildings – superintendent to check out for next year

Personnel

- Employ a lunchroom supervisor
- Employ/train a qualified bookkeeper – started on this
- Continue to work through the retirements insuring the quality of the instructional program – started on this

Community

- Continue to look for ways to reach the community

Finances

- Continue to be creative in meeting the needs of the District during uncertain financial times – started on this

Item 13 Calendar Information

Item 14 Closed Session

The superintendent created a closed session packet with the personnel information.

Motion 15-193 by Weeg, seconded by Kent to go into Closed Session at 8:07 p.m. with the purpose of discussing personnel items.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Motion 15-194 Board returned to open session at 8:32 p.m.

Members present Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Item 16 Final Actions

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the January 26, 2016 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed to the public.

Motion 15-195 by Estrada, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent we accept the January 26, 2016 Closed Session minutes and keep them closed to the public.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota
Abstain: L McSweeney**

The superintendent recommends approving the professional services special education coordinator contract with Barbara Lenzen for \$45,000 for the 2016-17 school year.

Motion 15-196 by Ristić, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent we approve the professional services special education coordinator contract with Barbara Lenzen for \$45,000 for the 2016-17 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, Ciota and L McSweeney

Item 17 Adjournment

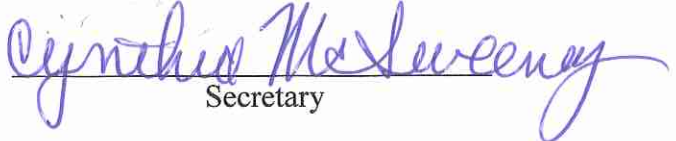
Motion 15-197: Adjournment

Motion made by Weeg, Seconded by Ciota.

Hearing no objections so moved.



President



Secretary