I Regular Meeting

A. Roll Call

The Board of Education of Wesclin Community School District # 3, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, met in a regular session on Monday, the 18th day of September 2023, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., at the Wesclin High School in said district.

At the above-named time and place there were present the following officers and members of the Board:

Members Present Members Absent

Jeff Stroot, President: \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tina Litteken, Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Connie Elmore: \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Zach Peters: \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dustin Biggs: \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jared Poettker: \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Krystal Schmitt: \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A quorum of the Board members being present, the current president called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

Administrators present:

Jennifer Filyaw, Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jamey Rahm: \_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Angela Woll: \_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Zack Huels: \_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Weathers: \_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jaime Bonsall: \_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous regular meeting and of the executive session of August 21, 2023 were approved on a motion by \_Connie Elmore\_, seconded by \_Zach Peters\_.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

C. District Finances

Motion made by \_Tina Litteken\_, seconded by \_Dustin Biggs\_ to approve The Treasurer's Report and payment of payroll in the amount of \_$852,334.11\_ and bills in the amount of \_$540,214.73\_.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

D. Agenda modification

Motion made by \_Connie Elmore\_, seconded by \_Zach Peters\_ to approve agenda as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. Superintendent Report

Trenton Elementary and New Baden Elementary are in need of new playground equipment for the school grounds. Upon review, we are looking at roughly around $80,000 to purchase the new equipment at both locations. Trenton Elementary has the funds to proceed with the purchase through fundraisers, and we are looking at the option for New Baden Elementary to receive an interest free loan to help them purchase the new equipment from the school district.

1. Principals’ Report

Jamey Rahm states that the Homecoming parade is Wednesday, September 27th at 5:30 PM in New Baden. There will be free hot dogs and cookies at the parade. Saturday September 30th, is the Homecoming coronation ceremony.

Zach Huels is happy with the positive start of the school year. The 7th and 8th Grade Baseball and Softball teams are doing great and heading to Regionals on September 19th in Carlyle. The Cross Country team finished in the top 10 at Central and Wesclin is hosting the Cross Country Regionals this year.

Angi Woll states that the PTG hosted a picnic by the lake last Friday, September 15th. The event held a fundraiser for the new playground equipment. There was a food and ice cream truck and the event was successful.

Patrick Weathers stated that New Baden Elementary got a new book vending machine installed- where the children can earn free books. Inside of the building, there were 3 new TV’s installed that show a slideshow of the daily events throughout the building. Outside of the building, there was a new 8X8 ft. Warrior logo installed on the front of the school..

II. Public Comments:

* Jackie VanGorkom- Is an advocate of the GoGuardian Beacon program. She states that it is connected sorely through an email address and it does not read anything else on your computer, nor is it spying on you.
* Jeremy Rakers- Has a 7th Grade child in the district. He states that GoGuardian Beacon is not fit for every parent/child and if it is installed onto his childs chromebook, it will be shut off in his home.
* Nick Bridges- Wants to know what exactly is being monitored thru GoGuardian? Can the program access the camera? If it is only monitoring email- he asks why is this necessary and who collects the data? He also wants to know if they can sell the data- and why the option to ‘opt out’ is not available.

III. Celebration of Success

1. NBE Book Vending Machine- NBE received a Book Vending Machine. The Machine will be used as an incentive program to encourage all students to win free books. This was an idea that was discovered by Mrs. Tockstein last year, and came to fruition through the generous donation of Mr. Ben Brownback of B2Group Event Planning.
2. 3rd Grade- Mrs. Bartons Class- Mrs. Barton has started a student-led citizenship and leadership initiative in her classroom. Students are implementing Dollar Days on early dismissal days. Her students will take charge of voting on a charity to support and on something fun for the school to do that will encourage the donations. Students will also be in charge of promotion by making a video for our school FB page, making an announcement at school, and creating signs. They will be collecting money, counting, and organizing the donation.
3. FFA Crop Scouting Nation Competition- The FFA Crop Scouting National Competition was held today in Nebraska. It was a great experience for the kids to do a Nation Competition,
4. Good News Email- An individual (Andrew Koch) who was very critical of our staff 2 months ago- wrote an email and expressed his gratitude for the successful IEP meeting we had with him.

IV. Items Requiring Board of Education Action

1. Final Budget

The budget hearing was conducted earlier in the evening. We discussed the Working Budget and the State Budget.

Motion by \_Jared Poettker\_, seconded by \_Tina Litteken\_ to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report

Annually, we must prepare an administrator and teacher salary and benefits report to be posted on the website.

Motion by \_Tina Litteken\_, seconded by \_Connie Elmore\_ to approve the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. Early Graduation

We have four students that are requesting to graduate early (at the conclusion of the fall semester.) They have written letters to the board explaining their reasons. All four students have met all of the requirements needed to graduate.

Motion by \_Tina Litteken\_, seconded by \_Dustin Biggs\_ to approve the early graduation requests for the following students: Gideon Ashley, Jessica Tropeano, Bobbi Jo Smithe, and Kamyah Cooper.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. Emergency Health Life Safety Amendment- Gas Line WMS

The Middle School’s original gas line is leaking. The leak is below grade and cannot be determined, and the pressure cannot be maintained. Currently the gas line is shut off- with temporary gas from the main line running into the kitchen.

Motion by \_Dustin Biggs\_ seconded by \_Jared Poettker\_ to approve the Emergency Health Life Safety Amendment regarding the gas line at Wesclin Middle School.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. Wesclin Middle School Gas Line Replacement

Three companies submitted bids for the gas line replacement at Wesclin Middle School. The new gas line will be above grade and along the roof line. We had a bid opening Monday, and the results are below:

* Baer Heating & Cooling - $82,275.00
* Beloman Plumbing - $145,615.00
* Litteken Plumbing -$85,690.00

Baer Heating & Cooling installed our HVAC units this summer and discovered the leak. It is to our

benefit that they were the lowest bid.

Motion by \_Connie Elmore\_ seconded by \_Jared Poettker\_ to approve Baer Heating & Cooling to replace the Gas Line at Wesclin Middle School for $82,275.00

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. Kitchen Equipment- WMS/WHS

Although we contract our food service, we own the kitchen equipment. Part of our federal reimbursement is reimbursement for the replacement of equipment. Sodexo is requesting we purchase a 6 Burner Range/Oven for the Middle School for $3,070.00

Motion by \_Tina Litteken\_ seconded by \_Zach Peters\_ to approve the purchase of a 6-Burner Range Oven for the cost of $3,070.00

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

1. High School Semester Exam Exemptions

The High School exam exceptions were not finalized when the handbook was approved. Below are the recommendations from the administration and faculty moving forward.

First Semester- Seniors Only

* Seniors may utilize their earned exemptions from SAT Testing as Juniors.

Seniors are allowed to save a “voucher” for second semester testing if they so choose. Criteria as followed:

-ISBE Benchmark score is 540 in Reading & 540 in Math

-SAT Benchmark score is 480 in Reading & 530 in Math

-No unexcused absences during semester chosen for exemptions

-Seniors cannot be exempt from Dual Credit Class exams

* All other students will take exams first semester
* Exams are worth 20% of the final grade

Second Semester- All Students

* All students’ criteria to be exempt from testing

-Have to have an “A” for the Class- in Second Semester

-No unexcused absences for class- in the Second Semester

-Exams are worth 20% of the final grade

* Students cannot be exempt from Dual Credit Class exams.

Motion by \_Connie Elmore\_ seconded by \_Tina Litteken\_ to approve the High School Semester Exam exemptions.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7 -0

1. Policy, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits

6:230- Exemption Policy- is the only change. Library Bill of Rights.

Motion by \_Connie Elmore\_ seconded by \_Dustin Biggs\_ to approve the updated policy and procedure exhibits.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7 -0

1. Go Guardian Beacon

Staff was trained on GoGuardian teacher throughout the district. The program is an extension through Google- when using a school issued chromebook, it goes through GoGuardian and gives a detailed browsing history. It blocks inappropriate items and websites and can be utilized to inform administration of items being searched that require immediate attention as it only takes 8 minutes from when the website is blocked to go district wide. If Beacon was approved- the Building Principal would get an email and see a browsing notification.

Dustin Biggs- I did extensive research on this program and cannot find out who gets the data from this program's history? Also worried about the location services and wonders if the data is able to track the location of children using the chromebook.

Zach Peters- Why are the Chromebooks assigned and made to use at home? GoGuardian is only able to track school devices, and why put more responsibility on the administration?

Jared Poettker- I also conducted extensive research on this program and my fear is that it is driven by AI spyware- and tracking the location of children. Why is there not an option to “opt out” of this program , for parents who do not want to utilize it?

Tina Litteken- I think it is a great idea to track what the children are browsing. It can help prevent hazardous situations by notifying an administrator when a child is browsing for inappropriate use. It is 2023- we need more school safety.

Motion by \_Tina Litteken\_ seconded by \_Connie Elmore\_ to approve the program GoGuardian Beacon.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-no, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-no, Jeff Stroot-no, Krystal Schmitt-no. Motion does not pass 4-3

1. Consent Agenda

Emily Gerstner- Substitute teacher and lunch/recess supervisor at Trenton Elementary.

Motion by \_Zach Peters\_ seconded by \_Connie Elmore\_ to hire Emily Gerstner at Trenton

Elementary.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye,

Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7 -0

Chelsea Johnson- 1st Grade Teacher at New Baden Elementary.

Motion by \_Tina Litteken\_ seconded by \_ Connie Elmore\_ to hire Chelsea Johnson as a 1st Grade

Teacher at New Baden Elementary.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-no,

Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 6-1.

K. Closed Session for the purposes of discussing appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Board or legal counsel for the Board, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the Board or against legal counsel for the Board to determine its validity pursuant to Section 2©(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by \_Connie Elmore\_ seconded by \_Zach Peters\_ to move into closed session for the purposes of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Board or legal counsel for the Board, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the Board or against legal counsel for the Board to determine its validity pursuant to Section 2©(1) of the Open Meetings Act. \_7:16\_ p.m.)

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye. Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

Motion by \_Zach Peters\_, seconded by \_Tina Litteken\_ to return from closed session into the regular meeting. (\_\_8:30\_ p.m.)

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye. Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

VI. Adjournment:

It was moved by Jared Poettker, seconded by Dustin Biggs that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye. Motion passes 7-0

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President Secretary