

**TO: West Central Staff and Community**  
**FROM: Stacey Day, Superintendent**  
**DATE: December 29, 2023**  
**RE: Summary of December 19, 2023, Board of Education Regular Meeting**

At the December 19, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting, the following took place:

1. The Regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:00 pm. Board members present were: Brendan Schaley, Mindy Clark, Lauren Chockley, Sarah Bigger, Dillan Vancil, and Josh Higgins. Absent was Karl Gullberg, who arrived at 6:10 pm. Also present for the meeting were: Superintendent Stacey Day, District Administrators: Kathy Lafary, Jason Kirby, Sara Ryner, Joe Peters, Joel Zaiser, Jeremy Hennings, and Recording Secretary Jaime Shultz. Additional community members present were Shelby Bowman and parents, Breanna Gehrig, Jeff Gehrig and Mike Ruebush.
2. President Schaley led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The following items were presented as Good News:
  - a. WC hosted their annual music concerts, which were amazing!
  - b. WCHS has one Illinois State Scholar this year. Congratulations to Shelby Bowman!
  - c. Shelby Bowman scored her 2000th point (and counting!) in her high school career at West Central. Congratulations!
  - d. The elementary basketball program that's been happening on Saturday mornings has been a huge success. A special thanks to our high school girls and boys basketball programs for helping each weekend.
4. The Board approved the agenda with the addition of 12c (Closed Session) - Individual Student Matters (Placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students) as a discussion only item.
5. A quick presentation was held during public comment to Coach Kirby from Brevant Seed and Gehrig Nutrien Ag for their donation to the HS Football Program. Breanna Gehrig, Jeff Gehrig and Mike Ruebush presented a check for \$2200 to the HS Football Program (\$100 for each touchdown scored throughout the season). The West Central Football Team scored the most touchdowns of all the schools who participated in the promotion.
6. The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda on a 6-0 Roll Call Vote:
  - a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 14, 2023
  - b. Minutes of the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting, November 30, 2023
  - c. Payment of Bills
  - d. Approval of Activity Accounts
  - e. Approval of Treasurer's Report
  - f. Approval of PRESS Issue 113 on the 2nd Reading
7. We received three FOIA requests during the last month: Science of Reading Illinois looking for elementary ELA Curriculum information, Smart Procure requesting vendor, materials and cost information for items purchased over the last three months and Illinois

Volunteer for Change the Air Foundation requesting mold testing information from all schools in the State of Illinois. All requests were responded to within the appropriate timeline.

8. A discussion was held on the 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey. The Building and Grounds Committee met with the architects and have their initial list of projects to consider. The committee discussed improvements to the heating system for part of the middle school (replacing the original steam boiler), the high school roof and consideration of security vestibules for each building. The building and grounds committee will meet in early January to narrow down the list of possible projects and then will meet with the architects again. After that the architects will present a final list to the entire Board for approval. Once the Board approves the projects, the architects will submit the application to the ROE and ISBE for final approval. Superintendent Day also presented possible Bond Rate information for consideration, additional Bond Rate information will be provided as we move through the process and narrow down the list of projects.
9. Mr. Kirby expressed to the Board that there are currently about 8-10 students at the high school who are interested in participating in a Speech Team in the future and there are 1-2 staff members interested in being sponsors. This activity will be presented for final approval at a later meeting in the spring and the stipend for the sponsor will be considered during WCATS Contract negotiations later in the spring as well.
10. A discussion was held on finding alternative storage space for our baseball and softball programs. We will look into purchasing storage containers and having them delivered to the softball and baseball fields. The discussion also included ideas to tear down the two small sheds next to the baseball field which are run down and block the views of the fields. Superintendent Day will continue working on the logistics of this project and will present the containers for purchase at a later board meeting.
11. A discussion was also held about creating a hitting facility inside the west storage building at the Middle School. The building and grounds committee discussed this idea with the architects and was told it would be possible, with some considerations for snow/wind loads and possible shoring up of the structure. The idea is to empty out a section of the building and install the batting cage in that building, instead of in the middle school gym. This could allow for additional usage of the batting cage both during softball/baseball seasons and during their off seasons.
12. Board Members Clark and Bigger and Superintendent Day provided a follow-up to the Triple I Conference they attended in November. Board Member Clark discussed attending the IHSA Update and a session on Health-Life-Safety Requirements. Board Member Bigger attended sessions on CTE programs, Board of Education Oath, IHSA Update and Decisions, Decisions (a session talking about who is responsible for making what decisions). Superintendent Day attended sessions on the Science of Reading, Collective Bargaining, the new Principals Evaluation Tool and a session for Women in Leadership. All three recommended to the other board members to attend the conference if at all able in the future as there are a lot of great sessions and an opportunity to learn from other districts around the state.

13. A quick update was given on the School District Farm, as we are halfway through the school year. The last two years have been the best farm crops we have seen in the history of the farm. We still have cattle to sell for this year as well. Overall the farm is doing well for this school year.
14. The building principals and district technology director presented their monthly reports. Jeremy Hennings (district technology director) reported that they just received word that the district will be receiving free internet in the future through the K12 Broadband Network (this will be a savings of over \$3000/month when the program starts). MTC is our internet provider and will be participating in the state program.
15. The 2023 Tax Levy was approved by a 7-0 Roll Call Vote. The levy is requesting a total of \$7,289,779 payable in 2024 and will be submitted to the County Clerks in Henderson, McDonough and Warren Counties on December 20, 2023. The request was under the 5% threshold that would require a Truth in Taxation Hearing, so no hearing was required.
16. The Board approved work for the Middle School Boiler to install an automatic chemical feed for the water service by a 7-0 Roll Call Vote. This work will help the boiler run more efficiently and needs to be completed, even if there are changes to the boiler system in the future. The cost is estimated to be about \$10,000.
17. The following items were requested to be on a future agenda: Athletic Training Program (by Board Member Higgins), Building Generators (by Board Member Bigger) and an update from the Middle School on their School Improvement Process with ISBE (by Board Member Chockley).
18. The board moved into Closed Session to discuss the following: Personnel, Negotiations and Student Matters.
19. The Board returned from Closed Session and took the following action:
  - a. Tabled the Fall Coaches Rehire to a future Board Meeting
  - b. Approved the Personnel Agenda by a 7-0 Roll Call Vote that included the following:
    - i. Employment - Nicole Ebert - WCMS 6th Grade Volleyball Coach
    - ii. Employment - Matthew Mullen Jr. - WCHS English Teacher
    - iii. Employment - Bradley Underwood - Bus Driver
    - iv. Employment - Amy Chandler - WCMS SIP Team Member
    - v. Change of Assignment - Tiffany Ouellette - No Overload
    - vi. Resignation - Charlie Huss - District Custodian
    - vii. Resignation - Tammy Slater - WCMS SIP Team Member
    - viii. Retirement - Kim Allaman - WCEL Paraprofessional
  - c. Approved the resolution to consider releasing Closed Session Minutes by a 7-0 Roll Call Vote.
20. The Board was reminded that the next Regular Board of Education Meeting is on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.
21. The Board adjourned at 8:25 pm.