

**TO: West Central Staff and Community**  
**FROM: Stacey Day, Superintendent**  
**DATE: September 30, 2024**  
**RE: Summary of September 24, 2024, Board of Education Regular Meeting and FY25 Budget Hearing**

At the September 24, 2024, Board of Education Regular Meeting and FY25 Budget Hearing, the following took place:

1. The FY25 Budget Hearing was called to order by President Schaley at 5:30 pm. Board members present were: Mindy Clark, Dillan Vancil, Karl Gullberg, Brendan Schaley, and Sarah Bigger. Absent from the hearing was: Lauren Chockley and Josh Higgins. Also present for the meeting were: Superintendent Stacey Day, District Administrators: Kathy Lafary, Bryan Taylor, Byron Helt, Brittney Kugler, Athletic Director Joel Zaiser, Recording Secretary Jaime Shultz, District Technology Coordinator Jeremy Hennings. Also in attendance were the following new staff members: Chad Ellison, Jordain Johnson, Tracey Richers, Brooke Day, Ashley Dermer, Erin Clark, Neo Colter, Matt Mullen, Payton Clark, Bailey Stombaugh, Renata Conway, Peyton Jack, Heidi Crane and Doug Dennison.
2. There were no members of the public wishing to comment on the FY25 Budget.
3. President Schaley adjourned the hearing at 5:32 pm.
4. Between the FY25 Budget Hearing and the Regular Meeting, the Board of Education introduced themselves to the new staff and held a short Meet and Greet to get to know everyone.
5. The Regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:00 pm. Board members present were: Mindy Clark, Dillan Vancil, Josh Higgins, Karl Gullberg, Brendan Schaley, Sarah Bigger and Lauren Chockley. Also present for the meeting were: Superintendent Stacey Day, District Administrators: Kathy Lafary, Jason Kirby, Bryan Taylor, Byron Helt, Brittney Kugler, Athletic Director Joel Zaiser, Recording Secretary Jaime Shultz, District Technology Coordinator Jeremy Hennings. The following were also in attendance: Peyton Jack, Brooke Day, Shana Brown. Also the following students and their family members: Drake Vancil, Emerson Forbes, Kevin DeMent and Katelyn Ford.
6. President Schaley led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
7. The following items were presented as Good News Items:
  - a. Our partnership with the Farm Bureau is appreciated. They sponsor events such as Safety Day and Ag Days for our elementary students
  - b. Our partnership with the Stronghurst Lion's Club is appreciated. They provide vision screenings at our early childhood screenings
  - c. Several of our students participated in the Warren County Prime Beef Festival Special Persons Day. During this event, the students are invited to ride the carnival rides with their caregiver for free. We are very thankful for their partnership! They had a great time!

- d. Our PreK Department received a GOLD Circle of Quality from the ExcelRate Illinois Circle of Quality, based on their monitoring visit last spring. That's the highest rating they can receive.
8. The agenda was approved with the following changes: postpone the Mentor Update and remove the MS Volleyball coach positions from the Personnel Agenda.
9. The Board recognized eight students for earning the Board of Education Academic Excellence Award. Those students earned a 4.0 GPA for the 2023-2024 school year. All eight students were invited to attend the meeting and receive a plaque from the Board: Emerson Forbes, Kevin DeMent, Katelyn Ford, Drake Vancil, Delaney Endress, Addison Seitz, Makaylah Swank and Teegan Rodeffer.
10. Shana Brown was in attendance and addressed the Board with concerns about following the West Central Concussion Protocol.
11. The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda by a 7-0 roll call vote:
  - a. Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, August 21, 2024
  - b. Meeting Minutes of the Closed Session, August 21, 2024
  - c. Payment of Bills
  - d. Approval of Activity Accounts
  - e. Approval of Treasurer's Report
  - f. Delabar CTE Agreement
  - g. PressPlus Policy Issue 116 - Second Reading
  - h. WCHS FFA Trip to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis
12. The Board discussed FOIA requests for the month from SmartProcure (vendor information and purchasing) and multiple requests from the Galesburg Reporter (current staffing, retirees, new staff, school calendar, extra-curricular activities and evacuation plans). All requests were responded to in the needed timeline, except for the evacuation plan request as that is exempt from FOIA requirements.
13. Superintendent Day presented information on our 2024-2025 school year enrollment. As of the 6th Day of Enrollment, there were 754 students enrolled in the district. Our K-12 prediction for the 24-25 school year was 695, which does not include PreK Students (as there's no way to estimate that number). The actual enrollment for K-12 is 705 students. West Central's enrollment has leveled out over the last few years, but is 43% lower than it was at the time of consolidation in 2006.
14. Superintendent Day provided an update on our lunch program and our eligibility for the Community Eligibility Program. That program would allow us to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. West Central qualifies for the program, but does not have a high enough number of students who meet the requirement for participation in order to make it financially responsible for the district to participate at this time. We currently have about 41% of our students who are directly certified (TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, Homeless, etc), we need to be over 50% to consider and closer to 60% to receive the maximum reimbursement from the federal government. If we were to participate at this time, we would lose between \$5000-\$8000 a month in reimbursements.
15. Superintendent Day provided a quick demonstration of the new bus routing software, Transfinder, that the district is using to support our transportation needs. We currently run 10 daily in-district routes and 4 out of district routes. The program has helped us

adjust routes to balance out the number of students on a bus and attempt to lower the drive time of our routes. We are always in need of additional bus drivers, if anyone knows of someone who might be interested, please reach out to the District Office.

16. The administrators, AD, Special Education and Athletic Director reports were presented to the Board.
17. The 2023-2024 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report was presented to the Board. This is a state requirement for the Board to see and to be posted on our district website. This includes all certified staff salary and some (as required by the State) of their benefit information.
18. The Board approved the FY25 Budget by a 7-0 roll call vote. Superintendent Day reminded the Board that this is a best guess for upcoming expenses and that we will amend the budget in June 2025, if needed. With a new WCATS agreement and increased costs across the board for expenses, we expected to see a budget with higher increases than normal this year. Our fund balances are strong and we are hopeful that costs level out over the next couple of years. The following is our unaudited fund balances, effective July 1, 2024: Education - \$7,711,809, O&M - \$1,894,941, Debt Service - \$80,697, Transportation - \$367,306, IMRF/Social Security - \$360,990, Capital Projects - \$48,695, Working Cash - \$1,108,587, Tort and Health Life Safety - \$958,004.
19. The Board approved the FY25 School Maintenance Grant project to be the Middle School Locker Rooms. This grant is for a \$50,000 matching grant from ISBE. Superintendent Day will work with the architect to prepare the needed paperwork to apply for the grant. We will create a project with a base cost of close to \$100,000 and alternate pieces for additional work in the Middle School. This will allow us to take full advantage of the \$50,000 match from ISBE, but also give us an opportunity to control some costs by being able to individually accept the alternate pieces.
20. The Board was reminded to contact President Schaley or Superintendent Day for requested future agenda items.
21. The Board moved into closed session at 8:03 pm. The Board returned from closed session at 9:33 pm and took the following action:
  - a. The Personnel Agenda (below) was approved by a 7-0 roll call vote. There was no action taken this month on all of the Middle School Volleyball Coach positions:
    - Volunteer - Darci Heap - WCHS Girls' Basketball Coach
    - i. District Custodian - Kelly Davis
    - ii. Lead Mentor - Adam Boyle
    - iii. Building Mentors - Jessica Winters, Erin Clark, Jackie Spence, Adam Boyle, Tiffany Ouellette, Jackie Biggs and Bob Flemming
    - iv. WCHS FHA Sponsor - Peyton Jack
    - v. WCHS Art Club Sponsor - Chad Ellison
    - vi. WCHS Assistant Play Director - Bethany Nannen
    - vii. WCHS Vocal Music Activities - Bethany Nannen
    - viii. WCHS Rotating Freshman Class Sponsor - Matthew Mullen
    - ix. WCHS Yearbook Sponsor - Matthew Mullen
    - x. School Improvement Teams

1. Elementary - Jessica Winters, Julie Ricketts, Laura Lewis, Kendrah Ruebush, PJ Thompson, Jenny Ford, Emily Klossing
    2. Middle School - Natalie Ensminger, Heather Davis, Lisa Miller, Ariel Dillard, Sara Dittner, Payton Clark, Amy Chandler
    3. High School - Stephanie Adams, Tiffany Ouellette, Adam Boyle, Bob Fleming, Tom Williams and Jackie Biggs
  - xi. Change of Assignment -
    1. Karla Bowman - Part-time Title Paraprofessional (change in hours)
  - xii. Resignations
    1. WCMS Science Olympiad - Lisa Miller
    2. WCHS Art Club Sponsor - Amy Reathaford
    3. WCMS Scholastic Bowl - Heather Davis
  - xiii. Retirement
    1. WCHS Secretary - Nancy Hull
- b. The Board approved a Postseason Incentive MOU with WCATS by a 7-0 roll call vote.
- c. The Board approved the goal for Superintendent Day for the 2024-2025 school year by a 7-0 roll call vote. The goal focuses on District-wide School Improvement and curriculum alignment. Superintendent Day will provide a presentation to the Board later in the school year with what she learns and plans for the future, in regards to district-wide curriculum alignment and improvement.
22. The Board was reminded that the next Regular Board of Education meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.
23. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm