

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 19, 2015**

The Board of Education of the Independent School District of West Burlington met for a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 19, 2015 in the board room located at 607 Ramsey St. in West Burlington. Presiding over the meeting was President Randall with all members answering roll call.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Day and seconded by Conner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

**Visitors/Open Forum:** 5 visitors were present.

**Miscellaneous Communications:** None

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – the following items were under the consent agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- B. Approval of Financial Statements
- C. Approval of Payment of Bills – Jay audited the following bills: activity - \$7225.05; nutrition – \$20980.57; and gen/other - \$86061.74
- D. Open Enrollment – the following students should be approved for continuation of program at West Burlington:

Cameron Cathcart	grade 1
Briana Bruce	grade 3
Marlos Bishop	grade 6

The following student should be approved for open enrollment to W Burlington under just cause:

Sidney Snowden	grade 11
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The following students should be denied for open enrollment to W Burlington due to class size constraints:

Mathew Zaiss	grade 9
Andrew Dangler	grade 10

- E. Selected Personnel Issues – It's recommended that Audrea Edmonds be hired for a 2-hour kitchen position at a salary of \$10.25 per hour contingent upon a suitable background check.

JH Baseball – It's recommended that Jeremy Swink be hired for this position at a salary of \$1952.

**BUSINESS**

**Elect Vice President:** Motion by Boughton and seconded by Ross to nominate Jay Day as Vice-President. After a roll call vote of 5-0, Jay was elected Vice-President.

**Long Range Plans:**

1. Open Enrollment – Alicia Sherwood, Amber Springsteen and Sara Watkins, elementary teachers spoke to the board as to the current class size cap of 63 students and the problems they foresee with having so many kids in 3 sections instead of 4. Having 4 sections with 18 per section for grades K-3 is the ideal situation. When the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade went from 4 sections to 3 after the first quarter due to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade being much larger and needing to go to 4 sections, the reading/math scores of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students went down due to having more kids per classroom.

Amber gave the board handouts with data showing that smaller classes in the early grades can boost student academic achievement, a class of 18 students will produce greater benefits, minority and low-income students show even greater gains when placed in small classes in primary grades.

Mr. Schmitt brought up another concern in regards to the 63 student cap is financial. The average grade size for grades K-3 is 73 but if the cap size is left at 63, there could be as much as \$630,000 that the district would not receive in about 4 years. The financial impact is slow but with a shrinking budget the district will be less aggressive in funding new programs, expanding current programs or position and more inclined to say “no” to proposals put before the board and superintendent.

The board decided it would continue discussions at the work session on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> as to whether to change the current class size cap regulation to an actual policy and increase it to 73, which would keep things were they are without having to build on to the elementary.

2. HS Academics – high level offerings, stem – the handout is a part of the board materials. more math offerings are needed, expand science to include biomedical professions, additional AP English/social studies

3. Elementary reading/math – handout is part of the board materials. They will continue with the PCL model and the development of intervention practices to meet the needs of the struggling students; receive professional development to add comprehension focus groups and interactive writing interventions and assessments to monitor progress. Currently looking into a newly developed math series that matches the instructional practices and the Iowa Core.

4. Early Childhood – Transitional kindergarten was started to address the needs of students who could benefit from an extra year of education in a smaller group setting with more hands on, socially enriched learning.

5. Facilities and Grounds – the long range plan is a part of the board materials. It’s divided into 3 tiers – tier I is day to day tasks to maintain buildings and property; tier II is when building/grounds will be annually evaluated and list compiled of major repairs and then prioritized; tier III is when building/grounds are annually evaluated to see it meeting educational needs and any concerns brought to the board. These would include building additions, vans/buses, etc.

6. Vocational program – handouts are part of the board materials. Expand family consumer science to be more in line with culinary arts, implement child development II; industrial tech would expand the pre-engineering program, implementation of engineering and expand welding; more work based learning opportunities, more internship opportunities, implement biomedical science and computer science programs.

Athletics/Technology/Junior High and Professional Development all have handouts as part of the board materials. The information had been presented at a previous meeting.

Financial – due to time and length of information, Mr. Schmitt will wait and present that information closer to budget certification time.

**Feb. 2 work session** – look at open enrollment, elementary reading, early childhood and junior high reading more in-depth

**March work session** – budget/financial; elementary math, JH math

**April work session** – HS academics, professional development, technology and athletics

**May work session** – facility and grounds, vocational programs

**KUNO Concerns:** The district hosted a meeting on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> with representatives from Albia, Keokuk and Van Buren to develop a plan to address our concerns with the KUNO devices and Curriculum Loft system. Brian Gruhn, the school attorney for our district and Albia and Van Buren was also present to facilitate the discussion and help develop the action plan.

The devices are useable but not to the extent that the district was led to believe they would work. A letter was sent to the president of Curriculum Loft, which is part of the board materials.

**PPEL:** There are 2 types of PPEL: 34¢ board approved regular PPEL that generates \$50,000 and the VPPEL – voter approved with a max of 1.34. The current VPPEL is at 67¢ and generates \$102,106.

It's recommended that the district run another PPEL election on April 7<sup>th</sup> (budgets need to be certified by April 15<sup>th</sup>). We would again ask for the full 1.34 which would generate \$202,000 – our current plan calls for \$100,000 to be used for technology with the rest being paid from general fund and \$100,000 for facility maintenance and equipment purchases.

The reason for asking the full amount of 1.34 is because the district now has the 1:1 initiative which was not around when the public voted 10 years ago.

Motion by Day to pursue the necessary steps to have a special election for the PPEL on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried 5-0.

**Board Policy 403.1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Motion by Day and seconded by Conner to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Policy 403.1. Motion carried 5-0.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Facilities Report:** None

**Principal's Report:** None

**Superintendent Report:** Chris McElderry will be the trap shooting sponsor and will be paid a stipend of \$500 at the end of the season. The district will pay for ammunition and regular tournament fees. The DNR will provide transportation. At this point in time, there are 30 West Burlington students and 20 Notre Dame students interested.

Mr. Schmitt will come up with 2 calendars for next year – one with our normal start date in mid-August and one with the later start date of Aug. 31.

Vern Reed will be at the Feb. 2 work session to talk about the after school program, MTSS and seniors and whether they are on target for graduation.

**Items for Future Agendas:** Jay thanked the teachers for coming and staying for the entire meeting. Michelle had the board name 2-3 items from the meeting that they would want the public to be aware of – PPEL; technology; continuing with the 1:1 initiative.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Boughton and seconded by Conner to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

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Date Approved

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Secretary

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President