

## REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2019

The Board of Education of the Independent School District of West Burlington met for a regular meeting at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 21, 2019, in the board room at 607 Ramsey in West Burlington. Presiding over the meeting was President Crowner with members Hockett, Boughton, Bowen, and Thuleen answering roll call.

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

**Receive Visitors/Open Forum:** Nine elementary fifth-grade choir students accompanied by Mrs. Siebers and Mrs. Sherwood were present. The students sang a song as a tribute to the school board.

**Miscellaneous Communications:** None

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

- A. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- B. Approval of Financial Statements
- C. Approval of Payment of Bills – the bills were audited by Bruce: general/other - \$42,184.06; nutrition - \$11,190.09 and activity - \$2,784.16
- D. Open Enrollment – The following students should be approved for open enrollment continuation into West Burlington for the 2018-2019 school year:

Macee McConnell	Grade 2
Payton Burk	Grade 6
Preyton Doty	Grade 7
Preston Doty	Grade 8
Patrick Brown	Grade 10
Dreyton LaVeine	Grade 11

The following students should be approved for open enrollment under just cause into West Burlington for the 2018-2019 school year:

Shelby Silvers	Grade 1
Caleb Johnson	Grade 11

- E. Personnel Issues

**Resignations**

HS Assistant Track– Eric Walechka has submitted his resignation from this position for the 2018-2019 school year

JH Assistant Football - Eric Walechka has submitted his resignation from this position for the 2019-2020 school year

JH Head Girls' Basketball - Jason Marlow has submitted his resignation from this position for the 2019-2020 school year

Motion by Hockett and seconded by Boughton to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

### BUSINESS

**Jazz Band Request to Attend Jazz Festival at Culver Stockton College** – The jazz band submitted a request to the board to travel to Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. Motion by Hockett and seconded by Thuleen to approve the out-of-state trip request. Motion carried 5-0.

**Quote – Torch Mate plasma cutting system** – See handout. Mr. Fountain was present to discuss the two price quotes he received for a plasma cutting system. Mr. Fountain explained that the plasma cutting system would make projects better. We are currently using hand plasma cutters which causes a mess on the floor, this system would eliminate that. The system will cut down on scrap as it uses every available area of a material. This system would speed up the process of getting projects done, making the most of our 43-minute class periods. The system would allow us to teach more of a project, instead of just teaching how to weld parts together. The downside is the large initial investment, however, a plasma system has a low cost to operate. As a small school we have a limited number of offerings, Mr. Fountain feels the programs we

do offer should excel, this will help us take our welding program to the next level. Special note that Mr. Fountain claims he will not ask for anything else in the shop if this purchase is approved due to space limitations. We have previously upgraded the electrical in the Industrial Tech area, so there are no additional infrastructure costs related to purchasing the system. The system can be used in other classes such as Intro to Engineering, Design and Modeling, Automation, and Robotics. It can also be utilized by the Art Teacher and Maintenance Dept. The two quotes presented are the PlasmaCAM Inc. for a total of \$15,019.55 and the Lincoln Electric for a total of \$26,958.12. Mr. Fountain clarified that both systems would be able to perform the duties we would utilize in our Industrial Tech programs. The difference in the price is the quality. He feels that both machines will last for at least 20 years. Mr. Fountain has applied for grants in the past 4 years to help pay for other shop additions and has been successful because they were for smaller amounts. He will not apply for a grant for this system due to it being such a large amount and there are not many grants available for an amount this large.

Board Member Thuleen commented that Lincoln lasts much longer and is a better system through the research he's done; it's used in a lot of manufacturing facilities in the area. Lincoln products are built better and run better. Thuleen feels the Lincoln is what students will encounter when they go into the working world.

Superintendent Schmitt supports both machines but he isn't convinced we should choose the longer lasting machine due to concerns about technology becoming obsolete. He would, however, recommend the Lincoln due to its better history. Lincoln comes with a lot more technical support including a representative that is in Burlington every Monday and could provide Mr. Fountain with on-site support.

Board member Boughton supports the Lincoln as well as a former welder.

Board member Bowen feels the price differences are drastic for essentially the same abilities, however, she understands the price difference is quality.

Board member Hockett would recommend the Lincoln due to quality and from talking to welders. He's not concerned about it being obsolete as many factories purchase and continue to use Lincoln machines for many years. He also believes the Lincoln system is what graduating students will encounter in the industrial workplace.

President Crowner is concerned that this spending wasn't in our long-term plan and it may interfere with more important, planned spending. Mr. Schmitt is not concerned with it taking the place of something else in our 10-year plan as the plan is a fluid outlook of possible spending.

Motion to purchase the Lincoln Torchmate 4400 system in the amount of \$26,958.72 by Boughton and seconded by Thuleen. Motion carried 5-0.

**Board Appreciation** - Mrs. Sherwood was present to represent the PTO and wanted the board to know how much they are appreciated. Mrs. Sherwood handed out certificates and thank you cards.

**Graduation Requirements Board Policy** - Board Policy 505.5 – Requirements for IEP students has changed due to ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). They must meet all requirements set forth by the State of Iowa. The policy changes now better reflect the core curriculum. Mr. Schmitt made the point of clarifying that we are not reducing our numbers of graduation credits, making a change in diplomas or access to SCC classes. Mr. Schmitt recommends approval of first reading. Motion to accept the first reading of policy 505.5 by Thuleen and seconded by Boughton. Motion carried 5-0.

**Emailing the Newsletters** – See handout. Mrs. Brown discussed the proposed change from mailing the monthly district newsletter to distributing it digitally. The district would save approximately \$5,000 a year by not mailing out the monthly district newsletter. Mrs. Brown has been collaborating with Mac Moraniec, the district tech assistant, on ways to effectively send the newsletter out digitally. They are working towards including the newsletter in the body of an email with the lunch menu and activity calendar as attachments, making it easier for parents to print those documents should they need them. The board was in favor of going this direction with the newsletter but recommended the changes are properly communicated to the public and the ability to subscribe or unsubscribe to the digital newsletter copy is made easily accessible.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Kirkman was present to talk about the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Progress. The elementary has opted to do the online assessment. This will help with materials management such as answer sheets, as well as help students be more engaged with our devices. Students are used to doing more things online so Mrs. Kirkman doesn't feel the online version of the assessment will be an issue. Elementary teachers are running tests of the assessments in grade level teams now so they can better assist students. Mrs. Kirkman feels West Burlington Elementary will be well prepared for this assessment as we're already doing some of the work associated with the assessments on a daily basis. Mrs. Kirkman

believes it will be a smooth transition and test scores will reflect that. Assessments happen at the end of April. Mrs. Kirkman expressed to the board that they are appreciated for everything they do and noted that we have a lot to be proud of at West Burlington.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Schmitt commented that Mac Moraniec and David Roed pushed for lots of airports in both buildings which will pay off when they are taking the online assessments. On January 30th Mr. Schmitt and Mrs. Brown will attend the budget workshop and we'll see the first blush of our FY20 budget. Mr. Schmitt echoed the sentiments of appreciation for the board and thanked each board member for their service.

**Items for Future Agendas:** Board Member Boughton would like to see if West Burlington can do a Hall of Fame for graduated students, honoring academic and athletic accomplishments. Honorees would be voted on by former students.

President Crouner has heard that our coaches all have different types of communications with parents and players. He would like to talk to Athletic Director Jeff Housel about going to a uniform way of communicating with parents and players so information is relayed consistently no matter what the sport.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Boughton and seconded by Hockett to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

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Date Approved

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Secretary

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President

West Burlington Independent Schools  
Regular Meeting – January 21, 2019