

## REGULAR MEETING

February 18, 2019

The Board of Education of the Independent School District of West Burlington met for a regular meeting at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 18, 2019, in the boardroom at 607 Ramsey in West Burlington. Presiding over the meeting was President Crowner with members Hockett, Boughton, and Bowen answering roll call. Member Thuleen was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Boughton and seconded by Bowen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

**Receive Visitors/Open Forum:** None

**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 Dan: general/other - \$219,202.49; nutrition - \$5,131.75 and activity - \$1,865.91
- D. Open Enrollment – The following students should be approved for open enrollment continuation into West Burlington for the 2018-2019 school year:
  - Angala Brown Grade 8

The following students should be approved for open enrollment continuation to Burlington Community School District for the 2018-2019 school year:

Bentlee Davis Grade 1  
Destiny Pritchard Grade 5

- E. Personnel Issues

**Resignations:**

Assistant Football Coach – Jordan Webb has submitted his resignation from this position.

Building Bridges Associate – Chanelle Nichols has submitted her resignation from this position.

**Recommendations:**

Head JH Girls Track Coach – Jeff Housel and I would like to recommend Christy Jameson for this position. She will be paid \$2,053.00 (Step D, 0)

Head JH Baseball Coach – Jeff Housel and I would like to recommend Jay Eilers for this position. He will be paid \$2,053.00 (Step D, 0)

Building Bridges Associate – I would like to recommend Samantha Hertzler for this position. She will be paid \$12.26 per hour.

Motion by Hockett and seconded by Boughton to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

### BUSINESS

**Outdoor Skills Class** – See handout. Mr. Snodgrass approached Mr. Gurius about starting an outdoor PE class a few years ago and he was interested. We're trying to get kids involved in PE and have more outdoor related activities that can be lifelong learning. Mr. Gurius was present to discuss the class. He told the board this is an opportunity to get kids outside and on their feet. This program will initially be open to juniors and seniors and will be a two-period class. Mr. Gurius has been in contact with the Des Moines County Conservation and they are interested in partnering on lessons. Mr. Snodgrass told the board they would teach the skills and if the students wanted to get their certification, the students would pay for that themselves. The DMCC has a youth outreach program and can assist in providing appropriate equipment. Using this resource will keep the costs close to nothing for the school. Locations: include Big Hollow, Geode; anywhere transporting students back and forth in the class period will allow. Mr. Gurius explained that's why they're opening it up to juniors and seniors because those students are old enough to drive and can be responsible to report for class. Mr. Snodgrass told the board it wouldn't be an outdoor class every day, it depends on seasons and components that are being taught. Mr. Gurius sees it similar to a science class, conducting lessons in the classroom and then going outside to do "labs". Costs would be minimal for startup; approximately \$200 for compasses for orienteering and \$340 for outdoor recreation games. Mr. Snodgrass told the board this program meets all six of the national PE standards. Mr. Schmitt told the board this would be a semester class but would cover the whole year of PE credits students need. Classes would start in the Fall of 2019. Additional participation costs will be determined later. Adding this class will not increase the FTE of the PE teacher. President Crowner likes the idea but is concerned outdoor game activities will dominate the class. Both Mr. Snodgrass and

Mr. Gurius said it would not be, they are seeing it as a more skill-orientated outdoor recreation class. Motion to approve an outdoor skills class be added to the HS curriculum for 2019-2020 school year by Hockett and seconded Boughton. Motion carried 4-0.

**Wall of Fame** – Member Boughton is interested in starting a Wall of Fame at West Burlington. Several other area schools do something similar like WB to start one. He would like to recognize students that have graduated in fine arts, athletics, anything a student has achieved in school or their career. He feels recognition should be voted on by a committee of other former students. Ideally, candidates would be eligible 5 years after graduation. Member Boughton was unsure where a wall of fame could be placed in the high school. Member Boughton suggested it be an 8x10 picture of the student with a plaque. Mr. Snodgrass said the athletic hallway and the auditorium hallway has a lot of space where it could be displayed. Member Boughton suggested emailing former students to ask if they would be on the committee. President Crouner asked if this would be appropriate for the West Burlington Alumni Association to handle. President Crouner suggested the West Burlington Alumni Association has the email addresses for former students and funds that could use. President Crouner suggested getting a couple of board members from the Alumni Association together with Member Boughton to get this started. Member Boughton agreed and will contract the West Burlington Alumni Association.

**Board Policy 505.5 – 2nd Reading** – Motion to approve the 2nd reading of Board Policy 505.5 with proposed verbiage changes by Hockett and seconded by Boughton. Motion carried 4-0.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Snodgrass reported JH/HS teachers have been spending the last three weeks working with the admin guide for the new Iowa Assessments. Staff completed statewide testing of the system with no problems. There is quite a difference in the tests from previous years; more critical thinking along the lines of the common core. Mr. Snodgrass is concerned the length of the test could be problematic. They recommend fifty minutes, but there is no time limit. The JH/HS have been doing sample tests at different grade levels to get students ready. The test itself will be the last few weeks of April. Mrs. Kirkman told the board she's happy that the test is not timed, it can be good for students who need more time. This new assessment will give us a better indication of what students can do and not what they can do quickly. Again, they are trying to find a reasonable amount of time. This first-year implementation the schools will have to play around and see what works. New features such as text-to-speech on Math and Science could be a huge benefit to students. She's eager to have them try it out. The state is still predicting a fall timeframe to get results.

Mr. Snodgrass told the board parent/teacher conferences for the third quarter are Thursday evening. The end of the third quarter is being pushed back because of the weather cancellations. This will give the students more time to get work done. He's heard nothing but positive comments from parents on this decision.

Mr. Jones reported the emergency operations planning started last fall or late summer with Mr. Snodgrass, Officer Ringo Covert and Mr. Jones attending a training program. See handout. Since then Mr. Jones has formed a West Burlington Emergency Operations Planning committee that has viewed webinars to guide them in establishing an EOP. West Burlington has safety plans in place already, this plan is based on work done at the Federal level. It gives all schools a similar format to handle situations. Committee members include Police Chief Logan, Fire Chief Ryan, Mr. Jones, Mr. Snodgrass, Mrs. Kirkman, Gina Hardin and Janet from Des Moines County Emergency Management, Mr. Nate Prickett, Mr. Schmitt and others depending on the material being covered. The committee will develop a plan at the district level and building plans will be under that are specific. Mr. Jones learned a lot about our community in discussions on potential threats or hazards. The committee meets once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. Mr. Jones will be in contact with how the plan is coming and will provide a preliminary plan to the board and then ask for approval at the June board meeting. The plan completion date is June 30, 2019. The plan will include staff training in each situation on a regular occurrence. Mr. Snodgrass told the board they would set aside some professional development in the coming years to do tabletop training for staff. Mr. Schmitt told the board the State has the right perspective; they want all schools to be prepared. This plan is a step-by-step approach to when or if these things happen. The plan is a work in progress, we will make changes where we see they are needed.

Mrs. Kirkman reported that the PTO is always looking for new ways to build community with the elementary students. They held a mother/son dance at The Loft over the weekend and around 200 people attended. The kids and parents danced, and it was a lot of fun.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Mrs. Brown reported that the first digital district newsletter went out in February. See handouts. We had initially thought of using Google Groups, but because of spam concerns, we went with MailChimp. They offer a free account to anyone with less than 2,000 subscribers. We have 1,074 subscribers to the newsletter email list. The inaugural email was very successful, only two unsubscribes.

Mr. Schmitt report that the budget workshop has been canceled twice. This Friday will be the third attempt to attend a budget workshop in Clear Lake, IA. The timeframe is: budget presentation at the March board meeting and hold a special meeting on April 1st to approve the 2019-2020 budget.

As an answer to how we'll combat so many weather-related school days missed, we will hold school on February 22nd instead of that being a teacher compensation day. We'll dismiss at 2:30 pm on that day. Mr. Schmitt has looked at cutting professional development days but believes those days are important. We're not here to get the school year done, we're here to educate students. He's looking at a few other options to reduce make-up days. He's preparing at the 2019-2020 calendar. School will start on Monday, August 26th and proposed last day will be May 30th. Next year we'll have no weeklong spring break and two weeks at Christmas. He thanked the board for allowing him to attend the ESSA convention in Los Angeles. There was a lot of good information. There is an insurance board meeting scheduled for Wednesday so he'll be able to get a good idea of the percentage increase for next year. The original guess is a ten percent increase.

**Items for Future Agendas:**

**Adjournment:** Motion by Hockett and seconded by Boughton to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. Motion carried 4-0.

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Date Approved

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Secretary

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President