

REGULAR MEETING
March 25, 2019

The Board of Education of the Independent School District of West Burlington met for a regular meeting at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 25, 2019, in the boardroom at 607 Ramsey in West Burlington. Presiding over the meeting was President Crowner with members Hockett, Boughton, Thuleen and Bowen answering roll call.

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

Receive Visitors/Open Forum: None

Miscellaneous Communications: Member Hockett stated the board would like to recognize and thank the Connie Housman Memorial, specifically Connie's daughters Lisa Bence and Lyndsey Lerdel, for a donation that was made to the softball Hall of Fame sign on the press box. The memorial donated \$1,382 that was given to the booster club in March.

Graduation and Dropout Rate – Mr. Snodgrass reported the 2018 rate. The rate gives a total number of students in 9th grade through 12th grade. The 4-year cohort shows students that graduated within 4 years. If they didn't graduate in 4 years, they follow them into their 5th year. Students in 9-12 are considered a dropout until they register for another school. In 2014 the high school changed to full-time At-Risk Coordinator which has helped our rates. It's not the only factor; it's a combination of things. West Burlington has had a 7.4% increase from 2011 to 2018 in graduation rate, the state had a 3.1% increase. Looking at the low SES subgroup, West Burlington has had a 3% increase, the state had 6.3% increase, but we are still a lower SES subgroup graduation rate overall. 5 students didn't graduate in 2018, Mr. Snodgrass said those were students we didn't connect with. The high school takes pride in building relationships and getting those kids to come back and graduate. Mr. Jones gives credit to the staff for all their hard work on getting these kids graduated. Mr. Snodgrass said that mission is to provide leadership and support to those staff members.

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 Andrea: general/other - \$102,828.71; activity - \$5,187.04, and nutrition - \$24,269.98.
- D. Open Enrollment – The following student should be approved for open enrollment continuation to West Burlington for the 2018-2019 school year:

Jameson Martin Kindergarten

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

Cayson Dahl 10th Grade

The following students should be denied for open enrollment to West Burlington for the 2018-2019 school year:

Izaiha Quiroz 10th Grade
Marlos Bishop 10th Grade

The following students should be approved for open enrollment to West Burlington for Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year:

Brian Bruce
Timothy Burns
Tyler Cardin
Olivia Claypool
Keegan Danielson
Anopa Dzawo

West Burlington Independent School District
Regular Meeting – March 25, 2019

Braxtyn Edmunds
Braelyn Ehlebracht
Liam Ford
Oliver Gerling
Jason Gerstel Jr.
Lauralynn Goode
Dayvon Hughes
Gannon Leatherwood
Caydee Lerdal
Madeleine McConnell
Aiden Nagrocki
Nolan O'Hern
Lexington Plath
Porter Prill Elena
Rodriguez
Henry Roscum
Camden Savage
Aashka Sherwood
Hunter Smith
Cylis Tracy
Evelynn Wagner
Mickenzy Wilson

The following students should be approved for open enrollment to West Burlington for the 2019-2020 school year:

Reese Johnson	1 st Grade
Taten Ecklund	1 st Grade
Xavion Pickens	1 st Grade
Aria Beeding	2 nd Grade
Gresham Walker	3 rd Grade
Madison Gerst	3 rd Grade
Danny Knox	6 th Grade
Miela Miller-Jacobs	7 th Grade
Anne Schmidt	10 th Grade
Anakin Kelly	11 th Grade
Zakiah Huckins	12 th Grade
Isaiah Richardson	12 th Grade

The following students should be denied for open enrollment to West Burlington for the 2019-2020 school year:

Jaxon Box	2 nd Grade
Brody Bolander	5 th Grade
Jackeline Guzman	5 th Grade
Lamar Harris	5 th Grade
Sela Rascon	5 th Grade
Payton Vance	5 th Grade
Daphne Brown	6 th Grade
Juan Gallegos	6 th Grade
Carson Gutierrez	6 th Grade
Keimar Nash	6 th Grade
Ryan Stott	6 th Grade
Keegan Banks	7 th Grade
Isaac Beard	7 th Grade
Caleb Bolander	7 th Grade
Sophie Brown	7 th Grade
Jakobe Davis	7 th Grade

West Burlington Independent School District
Regular Meeting – March 25, 2019

Carlo Gallegos	7 th Grade
Olivia Gerdorn	7 th Grade
Thomas Rascon	7 th Grade
Grady Walker	7 th Grade
Nathaniel Watson	7 th Grade
Emma Henry	8 th Grade
Adra Johnson	8 th Grade
Kaleb Vance	8 th Grade
Tianna Lovell	9 th Grade
Blaze Price	9 th Grade
Mateo Rascon	9 th Grade
Danovyn Rivera	9 th Grade
Laila Rogers	9 th Grade
Gracianna Walker	9 th Grade

The following students are not approved at this time for open enrollment. They will be added to a waiting list in chronological order:

Alex Gulley	Kindergarten
Evan Gulley	Kindergarten
Nora Brakeville	Kindergarten
Liam Gerst	Kindergarten
Quisetin Lewis	Kindergarten
Lennon Good	Kindergarten
Nadine Sanares	Kindergarten
Scarlett Gibbs	Kindergarten
Karsen Allen	Kindergarten
Jase Shull	Kindergarten
Andrea Guzman	Kindergarten
Sephora Spinks	Kindergarten
Brentley Franks	Kindergarten
Kaylie Gerst	Kindergarten
Will Vogel	Kindergarten
Darcey Boyd	Kindergarten
Nevaeh Miller	Kindergarten
Hannah Stott	4 th Grade
Graylon Walker	4 th Grade
Roy Brown	4 th Grade
Nathaniel Amenell	4 th Grade
Jaylee Gallegos	4 th Grade
Aleehia Fry	4 th Grade

E. Personnel Issues

Resignations:

High School Art - Marianne Darnall has submitted her resignation from this position at the end of the 2018-19 School Year.

High School Teacher's Aide - Nubelinda Cordts has submitted her resignation from this position at the end of the 2018-19 School Year.

Junior High Assistant Football Coach - Todd McGhghy has submitted his resignation from this position.

Recommendations:

Food Service – Patty McPherson recommends Kim Zaiser for this position. She'll work 27.5 hours per week. Hourly rate will be \$11.74 an hour.

JH Assistant Baseball - Jeff Housel recommends hiring Zach Swink for this position. Salary will be \$1,579.25 (E, 1).

JH Assistant Softball - Jeff Housel recommends that Brandall Diaz be hired for this position. Salary will be \$1,737.18 (E, 3).

JH Head Girls Basketball - Jeff Housel recommends that Christy Jameson be hired for this position. Salary will be \$2,053.00 (D, 0).

HS Assistant Football - Coach Eilers and Jeff Housel recommend Chris Chiprez for this position. Salary will be \$3,316.43 (B, 0).

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

BUSINESS

Copier/Printer Contract – Access Systems provided a quote of \$1,715.38 per month to cover all our copies. We're using them now for repair work. Motion by Hockett and seconded by Thuleen to approve the copier contract for \$1,715.38 per month. Motion carried 5-0.

Cancel SU Insurance – We currently have this insurance that covers our copiers and equipment repairs. We can save about \$35,000 by moving away from this. Motion by Hockett and seconded by Thuleen to cancel the Specialty Underwriters insurance. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Hiring Superintendent Search Firm – President Crowner reached out to three firms and he received three quotes back. McPherson and Jacobson are who he recommends after reviewing the three agreements. They do hundreds of superintendent searches a year. We have the option to perform the search ourselves if that is what the board chooses. We could do it in-house, but they have more experience and will perform background checks. They will also sort through the applications and get the pool down to the top five or fewer. Dr. Anderson told the board that McPherson and Jacobson is one of the major search firms in Iowa; they average 20-25 applicants. Member Hockett agrees with President Crowner that we should use the firm instead of performing the search ourselves. Base cost is \$6,500. Allowing extra money for travel and expenses the maximum cost is \$9,300. They will want to start right away and this is the right time of the year to start a superintendent search. The board will need to set up a meeting with their consultant to get started. Motion by Hockett and seconded by Boughton to enter into an agreement with McPherson and Jacobson for our new superintendent search. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Interim Superintendent – President Crowner reached out to several school districts about sharing a superintendent. The superintendents were interested, but their respective school boards were not in favor of sharing. We could continue to use the AEA as our superintendent. The contract to continue to use the AEA would be \$700 for three days a week until the end of the school year which would be just under \$30,000. President Crowner also reached out to eight different retired superintendents and had a lot of interest. President Crowner's recommendation is to hire Dr. Kenneth Marang as our interim superintendent until the end of the school year. Dr. Marang has 11 years of experience. He served as the superintendent to the Ft. Madison Schools until he retired in 2016. Dr. Marang currently substitute teaches for West Burlington so he is familiar with our staff and students. Dr. Marang was also recommended by all three principals. Dr. Marang met with Member Hockett and President Crowner to discuss the position and he is willing to step in for next year if we don't find the right candidate through the superintendent search. Dr. Marang's contract would be for \$22,000 for the rest of the year. Motion by Thuleen and seconded by Hockett to hire Dr. Kenneth Marang as our interim superintendent. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Marang addressed the board. He told the board he appreciates our confidence in him and looks forward to being the interim superintendent. He told the board he's been in a lot of schools and different capacities, but West Burlington is unique. He's excited about the position and wants to be in the district as much as he can.

President Crowner thanked Dr. Anderson for stepping in and helping the last few weeks, she's done a great job for West Burlington.

Dr. Anderson told the board she appreciated the opportunity and thanked them.

Sharing Agreement for High School Swimming – Member Bowen was concerned about the clause that states a student that is open enrolled to West Burlington from Burlington won't be allowed to swim. Mr. Snodgrass said they have the program and don't need us if we want our kids to swim, we have to agree to their terms. President Crowner also doesn't like the clause, but he feels it's something we need to work on as a relationship with that district, not something for us to fight. It's his hope it might change with a school board election and some conversations. We have 2-3 swimmers; one might be a Burlington resident. Member Thuleen agrees with Bowen but understands where President Crowner is coming from. Member Hockett feels it is bad public relations for them to not allow a Burlington resident to

swim. He told the board their superintendent supported everyone being able to swim, but the school board overruled him. Member Thuleen will second the motion to approve the sharing agreement only because it helps those students that qualify. Motion by Hockett and seconded by Thuleen to approve the sharing agreement with Burlington for swimming. President Crowner called for a roll-call vote: Hockett-aye, Thuleen-aye, Boughton-aye, Bowen-aye, and Crowner-aye. Motion carried 5-0

Approve Senior Class Trip – Mr. Snodgrass told the board this is a trip the seniors go on every year. Seniors are eligible to go on the trip if they have met their graduation requirements. The seniors raise all the money themselves to attend and sponsors go on the trip and chaperone. Asking for approval because it's out of state to St. Louis, Missouri. Motion by Thuleen and seconded by Boughton to approve the senior class trip to St. Louis, Missouri. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Preschool Field Trip – Mrs. Kirkman told the board the preschool is wanting to go on a field trip to the Discovery Depot in Galesburg, Illinois. The Discovery Depot is a hands-on, interactive children's museum. Motion by Boughton and seconded by Hockett to approve the preschool field trip to Galesburg, Illinois. Motion carried 5-0.

Budget Discussion – President Crowner told the board that initially we were looking at a tax rate of \$14.10. After Dr. Anderson came in with Dennis Gourley from the AEA we found our special education deficit was around \$250,000. If we were to cover the entire \$250,000 in taxes, our tax rate would be \$14.80. After looking at areas we can cut, we are looking at a tax rate of \$14.52. We will have the AEA, along with Dr. Marang, look at areas we can cut in the way of associates and expenditures. The deficit we have is from last school year. Dr. Anderson found weightings that were incorrect which will give us increased weighed dollars next year that will help lower our deficit. Dr. Anderson told the board the weighting on special education students decreased almost by 10% or \$66,000. Dr. Anderson met with principals about writing IEP's correctly to make sure this isn't a problem going forward. We were running around a \$60,000 deficit in previous years and it ballooned to \$250,000. The deficit means we've been using money out of our bank account for special education expenditures, but we can't continue to do that or we'll have no money in the bank. Member Hockett said we're looking at cuts to curtail expenditures. Finding the weightings that were not correct means we're leaving money on the table. President Crowner reminded the board that in FY11-FY14 our tax rate was over \$22, so we're way down from just a few years ago. Looking at rates from other districts; we are comparable to what's happening around us. President Crowner doesn't want to raise taxes, but we need to accommodate the monies we've already spent. Mr. Hockett told the board that in 2019 out of the 347 taxing entities, West Burlington is ranked 141st. He reminded the board they won't start paying on new assessments until a year from September.

Set Date and Time for Budget Hearing – It's recommended that April 8th at 6:00 PM in the boardroom as the date/time for the public hearing regarding the FY20 budget. Motion by Hockett and seconded by Bowen to approve April 8th at 6:00 PM in the boardroom as the time/date for the budget public hearing. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Publication of Budget Hearing – It's recommended that the notice be published in the March 28th issue of the Des Moines County News. Motion by Boughton and seconded by Thuleen to approve March 28th in the Des Moines County News for the publication of the budget hearing notice. Motion carried 5-0.

Budget Guarantee Resolution – Dr. Marang told the board the resolution is made for declining enrollment to preserve spending authority. We don't anticipate needing to be on the budget guarantee, but if we need it and haven't approved it, it's not available. President Crowner told the board if we drop ten resident students, we can still use the spending authority.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Independent School District of West Burlington, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.

President Crowner called for a roll-call vote: Hockett-aye, Thuleen-aye, Boughton-aye, Bowen-aye, and Crowner-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Principal's Report - Mrs. Kirkman reported that the elementary had a really good science professional development session. The staff was very receptive. The AEA personnel complimented our staff on their eagerness to work with students. The professional development showed us ways to beef up our science curriculum. She also told the board the elementary will be starting Iowa Assessments during the window of April 10th-26th. Mrs. Kirkman has been talking to

other area schools that have started and they have reported that its been smooth sailing. She also told the board she's confident with our technology infrastructure that it will be able to handle all the students taking the tests online.

Mr. Snodgrass again mentioned our graduation rates. He also told the board the junior high and high school are also getting ready to prepare for the new Iowa Assessments. He told the board that the annual Conditions of Learning survey will be coming up. The survey gets staff and parent feedback that goes into our school report card. The survey will happen in May. Mr. Snodgrass told the board of some good news; we had students in a national computer conference that placed. Jaydon Badtram, Brandon Broeg, and Jax Walters. These students are tech interns that are attending SCC in their computer science program. Mr. Snodgrass said he'd like to look at starting a computer science program at the junior high/high school down the road. A computer science program would help our students. Mr. Snodgrass thanked Dr. Anderson for coming in and working with us for the last 2 ½ weeks.

Superintendent – Dr. Anderson told the board she had worked with the principals and teacher union representatives on the end of the year. The last student day will be June 4th and June 5th is the teacher comp day that was missed in February. We will include this information in the April newsletter. Dr. Anderson has been working on the 2019-2020 calendar and should have that ready for the board at its April meeting.

Member Hockett thanked Dr. Anderson for her help.

Adjournment – Motion by Boughton and seconded by Hockett to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Date Approved

Secretary

President