



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

****Regular meeting taking place at the WJHS Cafeteria on March 15, 2021**

MEMBERS

Position	Present	Absent
Presiding Officer	Matt Seman	
	Charles Waugh	
		Teresa Benner
	Kurt Ratliff	
		Corey Conklin
	Lorri Bandy	
Superintendent	Tip Reedy	
Building Principals		
Board of Education Secretary	Tom Ray	

Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance / Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order by President, Matt Seman. Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary. Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Lorri Bandy and seconded by Kurt Ratliff that the agenda be approved as read:

Discussion: None

Motion carried

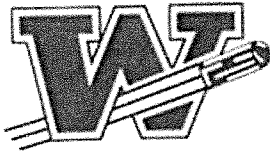
Public Comment & Recognition of Employees, Faculty Spotlight

Byron Painter – South County Publications

Bethany Russell and Hayley Chladny – High School Guidance Counselors

Several high school students (and parents) presenting information on Jared's Keepers

A group of high school students and faculty wanted to do more for those students struggling with mental health issues. They established a Jared's Keeper group to help identify and assist students who are struggling with mental health issues and provide them with information and resources. Since students normally talk to their peers first, they will be trained to help and learn



when they need to get a trusted adult involved. They provided a great deal of information to the Board.

Informational Items and Dates

Mr. Reedy presented a list of upcoming important dates to the Board.

- March 9 Facility Pre-Bid Meeting
- March 15 6:30 Regular BOE Meeting
- March 30 Facility Bid Opening 2:00 Unit Office
- April 6 BOE Elections
- April 13 WHS Junior SAT Test
- Mar 27-Apr 5 Spring Break No School
- April 19 6:30 Regular BOE Meeting
- May 17 6:30 Regular BOE Meeting
- May 21 Tentative Last Day of Student Attendance
- May 24 Teacher In-Service

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Tom Ray and seconded by Charles Waugh to approve the consent agenda containing items a, b, c, d, and e: Approval of the Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021, and Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2021, Approval of the Bills in the amount of \$855,668.71 - including reimbursement of the revolving fund of \$2016.00, Approval of the Treasurer's Report, Approval of the WCUSD15 Lunch Report, and Approval of Superintendent's Acceptance of Resignations:

Discussion: None

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

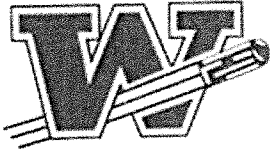
Information Items

A. Principal's Reports – Full Reports Submitted to the Board

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Update

- The February 28, 2021 Williamsville Index shows a \$60,874,297.00 balance in ALL FUNDS and a \$5,917,134.98 balance in OPERATING FUNDS.
- The March 2021 CSFST payment was \$110,413.94. This is for December 2020. It is about \$3,000 less than last year. We budgeted \$950,000 in CSFST revenue for FY21 and are on track to receive \$1,050,000.



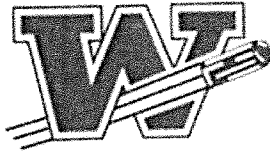
- FY21 Fund Balance Update: The February ALL FUND revenues were \$599,809.90 and the February ALL FUND expenses were \$1,411,331.01. The February ED FUND expenses were \$1,088,334.10.
- As of February 28, we have received 92%% of our FY21 ALL FUND estimated budgeted revenue and expended 70% of our FY21 ALL FUND estimated budgeted expenses.
- As of February 28, we have received 62% of our FY21 ED FUND estimated budgeted revenue and expended 64% of our FY21 ED FUND estimated budgeted expenses.
- ESSERII (COVID-19 CARES Grant): We anticipate receiving \$315,305 in additional Ed Fund Revenue. This could come in FY21 or FY22.
- State Budget: Mr. Reedy anticipates a flat state budget and flat EBF funding for next school year. ISBE has requested an additional \$375 million for EBF.
- District Savings: We have changed our bus radio communication system and expect to save up to \$6000 per year. We are in the process of contracting school bus fuel and fuel additive for additional district transportation savings.

2. Facility Update

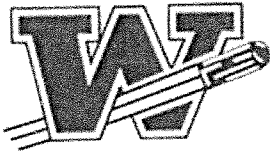
- March 9, 2021 is the next pre-bid meeting for the entire bid package. Bid submittals will be opened at 2:00pm on March 30, 2021. The Board will consider accepting the bids at the April 19, 2021 board meeting.
- Mr. Reedy included a Facility Plan Construction Milestone timeline in the board packet. It could change after final bids are received.
- The construction tentative schedule is as follows:
 - Demolition/abatement of the 5th grade building & Unit Office June 2021
 - Unit/Tech Office renovations summer 2021
 - WHS inside and outside facility plans start summer 2021
 - WJHS 6th grade renovations summer 2022
 - SES PK & K wing renovations summer 2022
 - We still anticipate the facility plan to be completed by August 2023.
- We received two formal bids for the Facility Plan asbestos abatement. Mr. Reedy recommends the Board approves the Thornburgh Abatement, Inc. bid of \$106,905.00. This bid is \$72,000 less than our estimated budgeted asbestos abatement amount.
- The Board, WCUSD#15 staff, and the public are always invited to meet with Mr. Reedy to go over the facility plan.

3. Return to School Update

- The building principals met with groups of teachers and had conversations about moving forward to increase our daily in-person attendance. Mr. Reedy met with a district wide group of teachers/administrators and had conversations about moving forward to increase our daily in-person attendance. The importance of these focus group meetings is to listen, hear, and gather information from our best teachers.
- Summary of Meeting Notes (Admin & Teacher Input)
 - Teachers and Admins feel if we did not have to offer a full remote learning option, they would prefer 5 days in person with early dismissal.
 - Teachers are using all the planning & preparation time provided and need this time the rest of the year.
 - Teachers need this time to provide quality remote instruction to the full remote students and quarantined students



- We currently have 152 K-12 full remote students plus daily fluctuation of quarantine students
- IDPH quarantine/contact tracing is still 6ft/15 minutes throughout the day.
- Contact exposure and quarantines cause major unknown challenges. Unfortunately, due to the contact exposure mandates, we have sent over 1750 healthy students home this school year.
- At any time because of close contact exposure, we could see a very large increase in our remote student population.
- Teachers are using Remote Learning Mondays for remote planning & prep and teachers are meeting in-person with struggling in-person and full remote students. We also accommodate most all our mandated IEP minutes on Monday.
- We do not want to go backwards in our learning model.
- The current 4 day in-person learning model is working and everyone; students & staff are in a routine.
- We are balancing the ISPH/ISBE/Health Dept. mandates and mitigations and successfully offering opportunities for in-person learning, full remote learning, and all extracurricular activities.
- The district is doing a very good job navigating all these challenges.
- Over the course of the school year, WCUSD#15 students have been attending in-person instruction learning more than most area schools.
- With the current plan, teachers are closing the achievement gap and meeting the needs of full remote, quarantine, and in-person students.
- Student grades, mental health, and social emotional health are improving by having in-person learning, but probably more important... opening all the extracurricular activities has helped all students.
- Teachers and Administration would prefer to continue with the current 4 day in-person learning model the rest of the school year.
- Updated IDPH Guidance for Schools: The new guidance doesn't change much of what we are currently doing. This guidance replaces all other mandates received this year. Here are some changes of emphasis:
 - Social distancing is defined as 3-6ft masked. We are currently doing the best we can with space capacity aligned to the mandated social distancing guidance.
 - IDPH does not require daily screening and symptom checks for students upon arrival each day. Symptom and screening checks will need to be conducted at home by parents. We plan to continue building student screening checks daily through April 6, 2021. Mr. Reedy will evaluate if we continue the rest of the year. We still face daily challenges from parents sending symptomatic students to school.
 - Remote Learning Option Definition: Families of students who are at increased risk of severe illness (including those with special health care needs) or who live with people at increased risk must be given the option of remote instruction. I interpret this as we do not have to offer full remote learning to ALL students. I recommend continuing to provide remote learning for the rest of the year.
 - Fully vaccinated staff do not need to quarantine as a close contact. (90-day window)
- How are other school districts making 5 Day In-Person Learning happen? Most of the area Sangamon County schools are staying with the same learning model for the rest of the school year. All schools are having the same conversations and would prefer to



attend 5 days in-person. All schools are facing the same challenges with social distancing and quarantine exposure. Here are a few additional bullet points:

- Many schools are hiring and paying for extra staff to take the remote teaching responsibility away from teachers.
 - Many schools don't have the same challenging health dept. like ours. Our health department is and has not been very accommodating for in-person school attendance or even accommodating for extracurricular activities.
 - Many schools have less full remote students.
 - Many schools are paying for a 3rd party program to administer full remote/quarantine learning.
 - Some schools are offering end of the year COVID-19 teacher bonuses.-
 - We are not in a position financially to hire additional staff to remove the remote learning responsibility from teachers (est. cost of \$60,000 = 1 sub teacher per grade at \$125 per day for the last 40 days), or financially able to pay for a 3rd party service with this short of time left in the school year.
- Next School Year August 2021: In our discussions with the Admins and teachers, we all agreed to start next school year with 5 Days Full Day In-Person Learning. We will need to evaluate the IDPH/ISBE mandates for returning to school in the fall. We plan to not offer full remote learning to all students. We hope there is not a close contact quarantine requirement. If we have to offer a full remote option to medically compromised families or students, we will investigate a 3rd party instructional program.
 - As a Superintendent. Mr. Reedy believes it is very important to end a school year with positive morale. He feels it is always best to listen to our Admins and Best Teachers. Any changes to our in-person learning plan would be for 6 weeks or 6 additional Mondays (April 6-May 21). Last student attendance day is Friday, May 21. The recommendation is to continue to provide full remote learning for the rest of the year. Mr. Reedy noted - he does not think the community understands the in-person school mandated IDPH/ISBE guidance we are required to follow, nor the amount of time it takes to prepare and plan for remote learning for our full remote students and (in & out of classroom) quarantine students. Over the course of the school year, our staff has done a very good job transitioning between 3 different learning models and still providing a quality in-person and remote learning instruction to all our students. We have successfully executed and conducted more in-person instructional school days than all other Sangamon county schools. As disappointing as this may be, he recommends finishing the year in our current 4 Day In-Person (Early Dismissal T-F, Monday Full Remote) Return To Learn plan and start next year 5 days full day attendance. He would love to have students attend school 5 days per week but does not believe it is in the district's best interest. Let's successfully finish this year in our current instructional plan and prepare to start 5 days full day in-person school August 16, 2021.

4. Legislative Update

- Mr. Reedy has been in communication with Representative Tim Butler. He is responsible for chairing the HB2362, HB2363, and HB2364 Sherman TIF Extension Committee Hearings. He has communicated and reinforced the district's stance on the Sherman TIF extensions. He clearly understands our position to protect the local taxpayers, ensure our bonding capacity, and generate the obligated revenue to the WCUSD#15. He assures me the Sherman TIF Extensions will not make it out of committee if all the taxing bodies do not sign the extension paperwork. We do not plan to agree or sign any



document to extend the Sherman TIFS. I encourage the Board to consider contacting Representative Butler (217) 737-8320 or butler@ilhousegop.org. The Village of Williamsville has no plans to extend the Williamsville TIFS.

- There are over 4,000 bills in the spring legislature. 700 of them are bills affecting education. We will see how many are signed into school code. Below are a few that have been passed.
 - Starting in 2028-2029 school year, two years of a foreign language for high school graduation.
 - Starting in 2024-2025 school year, requiring two years of laboratory science (rather than science).
 - Starting in 2022-2023 school year, students in grades 9-12 must complete one year of a course that includes intensive instruction in computer literacy, which may be English, social studies, or any other subject and may be counted toward the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.
 - Review of Social Studies Learning standards – yet to be determined by ISBE.

5. Other

- The Health Dept. controls quarantine and final determination of close contacts. Currently, the Health Dept. is planning to quarantine an entire sports team & coaches if a positive COVID-19 case occurs within a game or practice (indoor or outside). As area Superintendents, we are trying to get this practice/policy changed.
- Outside Event WCUSD#15 Spectator Fan Policy – Mr. Eucker enclosed the information in his board report. Current space capacity is 20% with people masked and 6ft apart. We have sent out communication regarding WHS & WJHS outdoor athletic event spectator attendance. All our outside athletic venues should be able to allow anyone to attend.
- WJHS 8th Grade Graduation: It is too late in the year to fully evaluate the need to continue 8th grade graduation or cancel it. We are making plans for the WJHS 8th grade graduation. WJHS graduation is planned for 6:30pm on Friday, May 21, 2021 on the football field.
- WHS Graduation: We are making plans for the WHS graduation. UIS is not confident they will be able to host graduation ceremonies. We are planning on scheduling the WHS graduation May 29, 2021 at 7:00pm, at the Sherman Amphitheater with fireworks to follow. Rain dates are May 30, 2021 or May 31, 2021.
- WHS Prom: We are waiting on guidance/approval from the Health Dept. for WHS to host and sponsor the Senior Prom. Mr. Furlow has been notified that if WHS cannot host the Senior Prom, a group of community members will be having prom. Any proms celebrated outside of WHS will not be a school sponsored event.

SES, JH, HS all received gold star awards from the health department!

Action Items

A motion was made by Lorri Bandy and seconded by Matt Seman to accept the low bid for WCUSD#15 Facility Plan Asbestos Abatement for \$106,905.00 from Thornburgh Abatement, Inc.

Discussion: None

- On roll call the following members answered aye:



Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh

- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

A motion was made by Charlie Waugh and seconded by Tom Ray to approve Reduction in Force – Overloads: Jeff Surbeck – HS Science, Jon Hampton – HS Science, Jennifer Smith – HS Ag Science, Jaime Vicich – HS Spanish, Kathy Wilkins – JH Special Education, Mitch Davidson – Junior High PE, and Jo Ellen Walsh – WHS Business.

Discussion: Classes are above and beyond the contractual day – this is done annually

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

A motion was made by Lorri Bandy and seconded by Matt Seman to approve the reemployment of Certified Staff

Discussion: None

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

A motion was made by Charles Waugh and seconded by Tom Ray to approve IHSA and IESA membership for 2021-2022

Discussion: None

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh



- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

A motion was made by Tom Ray and seconded by Lorri Bandy to approve the following transfers, hires, and volunteers.

- Cynthia Besjak – SES Cook
- Joe Fandel – Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach
- Brian Reed – Volunteer Assistant Bass Fishing Coach

Discussion: None

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

Executive Session

A motion was made by Lorri Bandy and seconded by Charles Waugh to enter into Executive session for the purpose of: Under 5 ILCS 120/2(C) 1 - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee.

Discussion: None

- On roll call the following members answered aye:
Matt Seman Tom Ray
Lorri Bandy Kurt Ratliff
Charles Waugh
- On roll call the following members were absent:
Corey Conklin Teresa Benner

Motion carried

The Board entered executive session at 7:41pm and returned to open session at 7:58pm.



Adjournment

A motion was made by Charles Waugh and seconded by Tom Ray to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

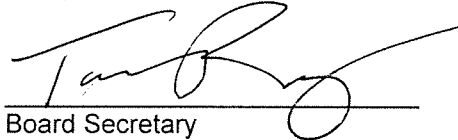
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Board Approval

Dated this 15th day of March 2021



Board President

Board Secretary

**Submitted by Jennifer Brennan, Recording Secretary and Director of Human Resources