

**WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana**  
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**January 13, 2025**

*A Tradition of Excellence: Preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.*

The Board of School Trustees of the Wa-Nee Community Schools met Monday evening, January 13, 2025, in their first meeting of the month.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at the Wa-Nee Administration Building at 6:00 PM by Superintendent Scot Croner.

**2. ROLL CALL**

On roll call by Superintendent, Scot Croner the following members responded as present:

Christina Eshelman	Curt Flickinger	Trevor Hershberger	David Kauffman
Don Lehman	John Payne	Brian Topping	

Superintendent Scot Croner, Director of Curriculum Gretchen Thomas, Business Manager Jessica McFarland were also present.

**2. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION**

There was none.

**3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT**

There were none.

**4. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**OATH OF OFFICE, ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**OFFICERS, APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER, DEPUTY TREASURER, APPOINTMENT OF**  
**LEGAL FIRMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETINGS**

A. Mr. Tim Shelley administered the Oath of Office to re-elected board members Christina Eshelman and Don Lehman and newly elected board members David Kauffman and John Payne.

B. School board member Curt Flickinger nominated Christina Eshelman as President of the school board to serve from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Trevor Hershberger seconded the nomination.

School board member Don Lehman made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 7-0

**SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT CHRISTINA ESHELMAN PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING AT THIS POINT**

C. School board member Curt Flickinger nominated Don Lehman as Vice-President of the school board to serve from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Christina Eshelman seconded the nomination.

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### Board of School Trustees

January 13, 2025

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and Curt Flickinger seconded the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 7-0

- D. School board member Don Lehman nominated Trevor Hershberger as Secretary of the school board to serve from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Brian Topping seconded the nomination.

School board member Christina Eshelman made, and Curt Flickinger seconded the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 7-0

- E. School board member Don Lehman nominated Christina Eshelman as President of the Board of Finance to serve from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the nomination.

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 7-0

- F. School board member Christina Eshelman nominated Trevor Hershberger as Secretary of the Board of Finance to serve from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026, and Brian Topping seconded the nomination.

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the nomination as presented. Vote: 7-0

- G. Board of Finance Report – Jessica McFarland

- Investment Report
- Fiscal Indicators Report
- Outstanding Checks Report

### **OTHER ITEMS OF SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- H. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Croner, school board member Curt Flickinger moved that the board keep the same meeting dates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month with a start time to 6:00 PM. Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

- I. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Croner, school board member Trevor Hershberger moved that the board appoint the legal firms of Warrick & Boyn, LLC of Elkhart to serve Wa-Nee Community Schools from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Curt Flickinger seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

- J. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Croner, school board member Don Lehman moved that the board appoint Business Manager, Jessica McFarland as the School Board Treasurer and Crystal Manring, Wa-Nee Bookkeeper as Deputy Treasurer from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0.

### **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0

### **5. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Consideration of the regular board meeting minutes for December 16, 2024

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### Board of School Trustees

January 13, 2025

- B. Consideration of the claims dated January 13, 2025
- C. Consideration of the Personnel items
  - 1. Employment (the following shall be employed upon satisfactorily completing all pre-employment Expanded Criminal History Background & Drug Testing)
    - i. Jennifer Johnson, Temp. English @ NWHS, January 26 to March 24, 2025
    - ii. Shelly Lengacher, Extended Day Sub Teacher @ WES, effective TBD
    - iii. Darlene Royer, Special Ed Asst @ WV, effective TBD
    - iv. Dana Brown, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - v. Erin Haseley, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - vi. Danae Sarber, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - vii. Melissa Troxel, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - viii. Brianna Miller, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - ix. Heather Bontrager, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - x. Virginia Taylor, Extended Day Teacher @ WV, effective TBD
    - xi. Katie Miller, Temp. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher @ WES, effective February 25 to April 25, 2025
    - xii. Ken Kniesly, Fall Set Building @ NWHS, effective February 1, 2025
  - 2. Transfer
    - i. Brooklynn Rethlake from Special Ed Asst @ WES to Life Skills Asst @ NES, effective January 6, 2025
  - 3. Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment
    - i. Brandi Trusty, Special Ed Teacher @ WV, effective December 23, 2024
    - ii. Bob Bilinski, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach @ NWMS, effective December 31, 2024
    - iii. Bob Bilinski, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher @ NWMS, effective end of 2024-2025 school year
    - iv. Glen Kehr, P/T Custodian @ NWHS, effective January 8, 2025
    - v. Beth Beer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher @ WV, effective end of 2024-2025 school year
    - vi. Mark Heeter, Alt. Ed Teacher @ NWAA, effective end of 2024-2025 school year
    - vii. Amy Heldreth, APEX Teacher @ NWHS, effective January 10, 2025
  - 4. Leave of Absence
    - i. Krysta Beehler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher @ WES, effective February 25 to April 25, 2025
- D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests
  - i. JoLynn Miller, IMEA Conference, January 17-18, 2025, Ft Wayne
  - ii. Tori Saucedo, IMEA Conference, January 16-18, 2025, Ft Wayne
  - iii. Jeff Cramer, All- State Choir, January 17, 2025, Purdue Ft Wayne
  - iv. Hailee Neverman, IEP Paperwork, February 13, 2025, NWHS
  - v. Brooklyn Freeland, FCCLA State Leadership Convention, February 27-28, 2025, Muncie
  - vi. Zach Benko, IHSBCA State Clinic, January 16-18, 2025, Indianapolis
  - vii. Michael Rand, IMEA Conference, January 16-18, 2025, Ft Wayne
  - viii. Faith Bradley, IME Conference, January 16-17, 2025, Ft Wayne
  - ix. Rod Lone, Girls Wrestling Regionals, January 10, 2025, Indianapolis
  - x. Rod Lone, Girls Wrestling State Finals, January 17, 2025, Indianapolis
  - xi. Pete Morey, AP TIPS – CS A Mock Reading, April 3, 2025, Carmel
  - xii. Brooklyn Freeland, IVY Tech Dual Credit Certification Course, January 23, 2025, NWHS
  - xiii. John Dougherty, Pesticide Training, January 29, 2025, Elkhart
  - xiv. Matt Smith, Pesticide Training, January 29, 2025, Elkhart
    - i. Gary Anglemeyer, Pesticide Training, January 29, 2025, Elkhart
    - ii. Brittany Harrington, IU ACP for English L111, February 7, 2025, Zoom
    - iii. Megan Bules, Transition IEP Paperwork Day, January 21, 2025, NWHS
    - iv. Pete Morey, AP TIP – CSP Mock Reading, March 6, 2025, Carmel, IN

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

### Board of School Trustees

January 13, 2025

- v. Lisa Cronkright, Argument Essay Process Paper Grading, January 20, 2025, NWMS
- xv. Jennifer Johnson, Observe English Class, 1/13, 1/14, 1/17, 1/21, 2025, NW

#### E. Consideration of Grants and Donations

- i. \$100 donation from Someone Cares Int'l Fellowship Inc to be used by NWMS Drama Department
- ii. \$2,500 donation from Korhorn Financial Group to be used by NWHS Swim Program
- iii. \$800 donation from McCormick Motors to be used by NWMS Swim Team
- iv. \$500 donation from Nappanee Area Chamber of Commerce to be used by NWHS Band
- v. \$2,000 donation from Craig & Melissa Foor to be used by NWHS Athletic Training
- vi. \$500 donation from Kelsey Mikel Memorial Foundation to be used by NWHS Yearbook Staff  
NSPAConvention
- vii. \$800 donation from Elkhart County Supply to be used by NWMS Swim
- viii. \$200 donation from Mary Dale LLC to be used for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Olympics
- ix. \$14,072.25 donation from NorthWood Football Club Fund to be used for NWHS Football program
- x. \$800 donation from Martin Brothers Contracting to be used by NWMS Swim Team
- xi. \$300 anonymous donation to be used by NWMS Choir
- xii. \$200 donation from Schwartz Electric to be used for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Olympics
- xiii. \$200 donation from R Yoder to be used for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Olympics
- xiv. \$125 anonymous donation to be used for WES lunch accounts
- xv. \$200 donation from Schwartz Electric to be used by NWMS Swim Team
- xvi. \$200 donation from Topping Dental Group to be used by NWMS Swim Team
- xvii. \$500 donation from Lippert to be used by NW Winter Guard
- xviii. \$172.20 donation from Crossroads United Way, Inc to be used by NWHS Athletics

School board member Don Lehman made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the Consent Items with the inclusion of the additional items as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

### A. APPROVAL OF THE WA-NEE OPERATING NORMS AND CORE VALUES

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the Wa-Nee Operating Norms and Core Values as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

### B. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No action required

### C. APPROVAL OF THE FIELD OF DREAMS SAFETY NETTING PROJECT

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the Field of Dreams Safety Netting Project as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

### D. APPROVAL OF THE WAKARUSA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD RE-APPOINTMENT

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and David Kauffman seconded the motion to approve the Wakarusa Public Library Board re-appointments as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

### E. APPROVAL OF CURT FLICKINGER TO SERVE AS THE WCS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE WAKARUSA REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Board of School Trustees

January 13, 2025

School board member made, Don Lehman and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Curt Flickinger to serve as the WCS representative for the Wakarusa Redevelopment Commission as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

7. **DISCUSSION & INFORMATION**

- A. NWHS Course Description Guide and Credit Recovery/Alternate Path Courses for 2025-2026 School Year

There being no more items to come to the attention of the board, school board member Curt Flickinger made, and Trevor Hershberger supported the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Vote: 7-0

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHRISTINA ESHELMAN, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
TREVOR HERSHBERGER, Secretary