

WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
December 18, 2023

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, December 18, 2023.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order at the Wa-Nee Admin. Office at 6:00 PM by School Board Vice-President Curt Flickinger.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

On roll call by Curt Flickinger, the following members responded as present:

Curt Flickinger Todd Gongwer Trevor Hershberger

Shawn Johnson Don Lehman Brian Topping

Superintendent Scot Croner, Business Manager Randi Libby and Clerk Lisa Hall were also present.

II. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION

i. Wa-Nee Christmas Card Winner – Addison Holmes

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC INPUT

- Rick Groom – Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff
- Dana Heflen - Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff
- Taylor Burkhart - Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff
- Ryne Robinson - Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff
- John Payne - Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff
- Austin Heflin - Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff
- Duane Burkhart - Spoke in support of the NWHS Girls Basketball players, program, administration, and coaching staff

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

School board member Don Lehman made, and Curt Flickinger seconded the motion to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented by Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 6-0

V. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Consideration of the regular board minutes for November 27, 2023
- B. Consideration of the claims dated December 18, 2023
- 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. Mark Aukerman, MS: Science Stipend, effective November 28, 2023
 - ii. Brad Delio, MS: Science Stipend, effective November 28, 2023
 - iii. Jody Weldy, MS: Science Stipend, effective November 28, 2022
 - iv. Elizabeth Eberle, Extended Day Teacher @ WES, January 9 – February 29, 2024
 - v. Krysta Beeler, Extended Day Teacher @ WES, January 9 – February 29, 2024
 - vi. Bert Kuhn, Extended Day Teacher @ WES, January 9 – February 29, 2024
 - vii. Shelly Lengacher, Extended Day Teacher @ WES, January 9 – February 29, 2024
 - viii. Denny Lewis, Elementary Wrestling Coordinator, effective December 8, 2023

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- ix. Shelly Lengacher, Instructional Coach @ WES, effective 2024-2025 school year
- x. Madison Maurer, Special Ed Ass't @ WES, effective January 8, 2024
- xi. Maria Vargas, EL Ass't @ NES, effective TBD
- xii. Robert Groom, Freshman Girls Basketball Coach @ NWHS effective November 15, 2023
- xiii. Staci Groom, JV Girls Basketball Coach .5 @ NWHS effective November 15, 2023
- xiv. Ashley Johnson, Ass't Girls Wrestling Coach @ NWHS effective November 15, 2023
- xv. Faruq Ghaffar, Freshman Girls Wrestling Coach @ NWHS effective November 15, 2023
- xvi. Laura Brubaker, Extended Day Teacher @ WDV, January 16 – February 29, 2024
- xvii. Jennifer Schrock, Extended Day Teacher @ WDV, January 16 – February 29, 2024
- xviii. Dana Brown, Extended Day Teacher @ WDV, January 16 – February 29, 2024
- xix. Ashley Bedward, Extended Day Teacher @ WDV, January 16 – February 29, 2024
- xx. Danae Sarber, Extended Day Teacher @ WDV, TBD
- xxi. Erin Haseley, Extended Day Teacher @ WDV, TBD

2. Retirement/Resignation/End of Employment

- i. Emili Zahner, Special Ed Ass't @ NWMS, effective November 22, 2023
- ii. Amanda Flickinger, part-time custodian @ NWHS, effective December 22, 2023

3. Transfer

- i. Jansen Christian, from SOAR Ass't @ NES to Substitute Teacher, effective November 27, 2023
- ii. Cheryl Bontrager, from Mentor Teacher 2 to Mentor Teacher 1, effective for 23-24 school year
- iii. Kent Myers, from Substitute Driver to Regular Route Driver #39, effective December 4, 2023
- iv. Jamie Eggers, from Principal Secretary @ NES to Transportation Ass't, effective Feb. 5, 2024
- v. Pam Sommers from P/T Cafeteria & Custodian @ NES to F/T Custodian, effective ASAP

D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests

- i. Gretchen Thomas, Connection Series, January 9, 2024, Virtual
- ii. Gretchen Thomas, Connection Series, January 23, 2024, Virtual
- iii. Gretchen Thomas, Connection Series, February 6, 2024, Virtual
- iv. Gretchen Thomas, Connection Series, February 20, 2024, Virtual
- v. Gretchen Thomas, Connection Series, March 5, 2024, Virtual
- vi. Gretchen Thomas, Connection Series, March 9, 2024, Virtual
- vii. Tori Sauceda, IMEA Conference, January 11-13, 2024, Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne
- viii. Amy Rosa, STAI Board Meeting, December 12, 2023, Fort Wayne
- ix. Robin Bilinski, Grading Day for English 10B, December 21, 2023, NWHS Media Center
- x. Brittany Harrington, Grading Day for English 10B, December 21, 2023, NWHS Media Center
- xi. Carlea Bragg, IASBO Chief Business Officer Training Program, Various Dates, TBD

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations

- i. \$300 donation from Elk. Co. Farm Bureau to be used for NWHS FFA – Farmers Lunch
- ii. \$1,500 donation from J & N Stone to be used for NWHS Football State
- iii. \$1,500 donation from Patrick Industries to be used for NWHS Football State
- iv. \$3,000 donation from Patrick Industries to be used for NWHS Football State
- v. \$1,500 donation from DLM Business Development to be used for NWHS Football State
- vi. \$100 donation from Pam Lechlitner to be used for NWHS Football State
- vii. \$100 donation from Richard & Connie Lechlitner to be used for NWHS Football State
- viii. \$500 donation from the American Legion to be used for Wakarusa Elementary Student Needs
- ix. \$100 donation from Adam & Whitney Yoder to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- x. \$500 donation from Schwartz Electric Inc to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xi. \$500 donation from D.H. Machine Inc to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xii. \$100 donation from Lozier Store Fixtures LLC to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xiii. \$100 donation from Stickley Ace Hardware to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xiv. \$150 donation from Vander Wey & Sons Masons to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xv. \$100 donation from Bontrager Concrete Specialties Inc to be used for NWHS Academic Teams

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on **Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM**

This meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Administration Office.

The Board's meeting site is fully accessible to all persons. Any person requiring further accommodations should contact the Superintendent's office at (574) 773-3131.

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- xvi. \$250 donation from R Yoder Construction to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xvii. \$200 donation from One T Inc (Subway of Wakarusa) to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xviii. \$100 donation from Heckaman Insurance to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xix. \$100 donation from Topping Dental Group to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xx. \$200 donation from Geyer Family Foundation to be used for Ski Club
- xxi. \$250 donation from Indiana Farm Bureau for the Ag Literacy Challenge District winner
- xxii. \$50 donation from Dee Ann Lesley to be used for NWHS Girls Golf-Memory of Esther George
- xxiii. \$50 donation from Mark & Caroly Landis to be used for NWHS Girls Golf Memory of Esther George
- xxiv. \$20 donation from Randy & Jill Hughes to be used for NWHS Girls Golf Memory of Esther George
- xxv. \$20 donation from Jeanne Angelmeyer to be used for NWHS Girls Golf Memory of Esther George
- xxvi. \$10 donation from Helen Martin to be used for NWHS Girls Golf-Memory of Esther George
- xxvii. \$100 donation from Mark & Caroly Landis to be used for NWHS Girls Golf Memory of Bob Lesley
- xxviii. \$250 donation from Ben & Maggie Brunner to be used for NWHS Athletics Memory of Larry Weaver
- xxix. \$300 donation from Stephanie Oltman to be used for Woodview 5th grade trip
- xxx. \$1,000 donation from Bryon & Stephanie Jones to be used for Woodview 5th grade trip
- xxxi. \$100 donation from Duane & Angela Burkhardt to be used for NWHS Girls Basketball
- xxxii. \$500 donation from Scott & Melanie Fervida to be used for Woodview 5th grade trip
- xxxiii. \$750 donation from Carol Vogeler to be used by Wa-Robotics
- xxxiv. \$100 donation from NP Tech to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xxxv. \$100 donation from Martin's Well Drilling to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xxxvi. \$100 donation from The Waters of Wakarusa to be used to NWHS Academic Teams
- xxxvii. \$100 donation from Larimer Furniture to be used for NWHS Academic Teams
- xxxviii. \$500 donation from GEN-Y Group to be used for IHSAA Football State Finals Expenses
- xxxix. \$2608.41 donation from B & A Reed Farms LLC to be used for NWHS FFA
- xl. \$400 donation from Nappanee Missionary Church to be used for NWHS Choirs
- xli. \$100 donation from Solar Energy System LLC to be used for NWHS Academic Teams

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 Mr. Flickinger. Vote: 6-0

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the Woodview Elementary Mentors

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the Woodview Elementary Mentors as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

B. Approval to remove nominal uncollected debt from prior school year(s)

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the to remove nominal uncollected debt from prior school year(s) as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

C. Approval of the Fee proposal from BCV for work at WES, NWMS, and NWHS

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Todd Gongwer seconded the motion to approve the Fee proposal from BCV for work at WES, NWMS, and NWHS as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

D. Approval of the sale of equipment – football helmets and jerseys

School board member Trevor Hershberger made, and Brian Topping seconded the motion to approve the sale of equipment – football helmets and jerseys as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

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E. Approval of School Board Policy 5136.02 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Programs

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Todd Gongwer seconded the motion to approve School Board Policy 5136.02 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Programs as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

F. Approval of the out-of-state and/or overnight travel requests for:

- NWHS Wrestling to IHSAA Semi-State, February 9-10, 2024, Fort Wayne Coliseum
- NWHS Wrestling to State Finals, February 15-18, 2024, Ford Center, Evansville

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to approve the out of state and/or overnight travel request as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 6-0

VII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

A. Christmas Break – December 25, 2023, thru January 5, 2024

- School resumes on Monday, January 8, 2024

There being no more items to come to the attention of the board, school board member Shawn Johnson made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Vote: 6-0

SIGNED:

Board President

Board Secretary

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