

**WA-NEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**Elkhart-Kosciusko Counties, Indiana**  
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**September 11, 2023**

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

*This meeting is a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be time for public participation as indicated by agenda item III.*

The Board of School Trustees of the Wa-Nee Community Schools met Monday, September 11, 2023, in their first meeting of the month.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. The meeting was called to order at the Wa-Nee Administration Office at 6:00 PM by School Board President Christina Eshelman.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call

On roll call by Vice-President Curt Flickinger the following members responded as present:

Christina Eshelman	Curt Flickinger	Todd Gongwer
Trevor Hershberger	Shawn Johnson	Don Lehman
		Brian Topping

Superintendent Scot Croner, Director of Curriculum Gretchen Thomas, Business Manager Randi Libby (virtually), and Clerk Lisa Hall were also present.

**II. SPECIAL BOARD RECOGNITION**

There were none.

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

There were none.

**IV. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**A. Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget**

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to give notice to the public that the Wa-Nee Community School Board of Trustees will be meeting to discuss the 2024 budget, 2024-2026 Capital Projects, and 2024-2028 Bus Replacement Plan. During the meeting the Board of School Trustees met to discuss and hear from the public objections to and support for the proposed budget. President Eshelman announced the Public Hearing for the 2024 Wa-Nee Community Schools budget was open and asked if anyone in the public wished to speak. After giving the public a chance to speak and hearing no comments asked that the hearing be closed

**C. Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Negotiations between WCS and the WEA**

President Eshelman announced that the board would be holding a Public Hearing concerning the 2023-2024 Negotiations between Wa-Nee Community Schools (WCS) and the Wa-Nee Education Association (WEA).

She then explained purpose of the Public Hearing would give notice to the public that the Wa-Nee Community School Board of Trustees will be entering into negotiations on the proposed contract between WSC and the WEA which may be effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. During this meeting the Board of School Trustees met to discuss and hear from the public objections to and support for the proposed contract negotiations.

***The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Wa-Nee School Board will be Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00 PM***

This meeting will be held at the Wa-Nee 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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Dr. Scot Croner then recognized that Tina Green, WEA President was in attendance for the public hearing. Mrs. Eshelman then asked if anyone in the from the public wished to speak. After the public was given a chance to speak and hearing no comments President Eshelman asked that the hearing be closed.

**II. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

**A. Amendments to the Agenda**

School board member Shawn Johnson made, and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the Amendments to the Agenda as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0.

**V. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. Consideration of the regular board meeting minutes for August 28, 2023**

**B. Consideration of the claims dated September 11, 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. Emili Zahner, SOAR Ass't @ NWMS, effective September 6, 2023
- ii. Drew Minnich, .5 Freshman Football Coach @ NWHS, effective June 27, 2023
- iii. Sherri Cervantes, .5 Athletic Director @ NWMS, effective August 29, 2023
- iv. Sheila Cripe, .5 Athletic Director @ NWMS, effective August 29, 2023
- v. Ann VanDyke, Special Ed – Lifeskills Ass't @ NWMS, effective August 28, 2023
- vi. Paige Walter, Ass't Cheer Coach @ NWHS, effective July 25, 2023
- vii. Brooke Gambrel, Special Ed Ass't @ NES, effective TBD
- viii. Amanda Flickinger, Substitute Custodian, effective TBD
- ix. Brooke Rasler, Head Swim Coach @ NWHS, effective August 31, 2023
- x. Lauren Conrad, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade JV Volleyball @ NWMS, effective TBD
- xi. Ashley Beachy, Instructional Ass't @ WES, effective TBD

**2. Resign/Retire/End of Employment**

- i. Derek Yoder, 8<sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball @ NWMS, effective September 11, 2023
- ii. Jason DeMien, Elementary Wrestling Coordinator, effective September 11, 2023

**D. Consideration of Professional Leave Requests**

- i. Dawn Payne, NES Walk-A-Thon, September 22, 2023, NWHS
- ii. Eric Criss, Midwest International Clinic, December 20-22, 2023, Chicago, IL
- iii. Tina Davidhizar, AP Math Seminar, September 28, 2023, IUSB
- iv. Tina Green, 2023 IEERB Conference, August 30, 2023, Indianapolis
- v. James Geleske, Advanced SRO Course, CCECSC
- vi. Mike Furfaro, IU AP Class (Finite), September 28, 2023, IUSB
- vii. Carrie O'Keefe, Elevating Education, November 28-29, 2023, Indianapolis
- viii. Shelly Lengacher, Phonics First Training, September 7, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- ix. Kenedy Gongwer, Phonics First Training, September 7, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- x. Laura Blosser, Phonics First Training, September 7, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xi. Bri Miller, Phonics First Training, September 7, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xii. Heather Bechtel, Phonics First Training, September 7, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xiii. Shelly Lengacher, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xiv. Laura Blosser, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xv. Kristina Clark, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xvi. Bri Reddy, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xvii. Anni Booher, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary

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- xviii. Christine Ramer, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xix. Brooke Hess, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xx. Amanda Jenkins, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxi. Kennedy Hill, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxii. Michelle Hill, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxiii. Cheryl Bontreger, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxiv. Kenedy Gongwer, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxv. Brenna Egendoerffer, Phonics First Training, September 12, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxvi. Shelly Lengacher, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxvii. Heather Bechtel, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxviii. Jan Snider, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxix. Krysta Beehler, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxx. Bert Kuhn, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxxi. Bailie Olsen, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxxii. Bri Miller, Phonics First Training, September 14, 2023, Wakarusa Elementary
- xxxiii. Nate Andrews, Sports Officiating Curriculum Development, September 7, 2023, NWHS
- xxxiv. Jade Sipic, ISFAA Fall Counselor Workshop, October 3, 2023, South Bend
- xxxv. Weston Lambert, Administrators Need to Know Special Education, September 9, 2023, Mishawaka

E. Consideration of Grants and Donations

- i. \$75 donation from Vineyard Church to be used for Wakarusa student/families in need
- ii. \$100 donation from Dianna Borders to be used for Nappanee negative lunch balances

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Shawn Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Consent Items including the additional consent items as presented by Mrs. Eshelman. Vote: 7-0

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the annual review of School Bus Routes and Safety Policies

School board member Curt Flickinger made, and Don Lehman seconded the motion to approve the annual review of School Bus Routes and Safety Policies as presented by Dr. Croner. Vote: 7-0

Don Lehman needed to leave at this point in the meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- A. Enrollment Update – Scot Croner
- B. SAT Update – Gretchen Thomas
- C. ECA Financial Update – Randi Libby

There being no further business to come to the attention of the board school board member Shawn Johnson made, and Trevor Hershberger seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: 6-0

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Eshelman, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn C. Johnson, Secretary

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