

1. **Call to Order**

President Driggers called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Cynthia Driggers, Mary Newman, Mike Plourde, Kelsey Lueshen, Scott Robinson, Steve Harkess

Absent: Carson Breed

Others Present: Glenn Terry, (RTA), Kindyl Etnyre, Erin Hauser, Megan Forsythe, Justin Bonne, Autumn Czizek, Jacqui Thompson

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Additions/Corrections to Agenda**

The following item is added to Executive Session for discussion purposes only:

- other matters relating to individual students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10))

5. **Comments from the Community**

None

6. **Levy Hearing**

Cynthia Driggers opened the tax levy public hearing at 6:03 pm. There was no public comment. Cynthia Driggers closed the public hearing at 6:03 pm.

7. **Approval of 2021 Tax Levy**

Steve Harkess motioned to approve the 2021 Tax Levy, seconded by Scott Robinson.

Roll Call: Steve Harkess, Scott Robinson, Kelsey Lueshen, Mike Plourde, Mary Newman, Cynthia Driggers

8. **Correspondence**

- Christmas card from RGS Specialist
- 4-In school suspensions at WPES
- 1-Out of school suspension at WPES
- 4-Bus suspensions at WPES
- 1-Out of school suspension at SMMS

9. **Executive Session**

- appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Lawfully closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)
- other matters relating to individual students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)

Mary Newman motioned to move into Executive Session at 6:04 pm, seconded by Kelsey Lueshen.

10. **Approval of Closed Session Minutes**

- October 20, 2021 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- November 10, 2021 COW Closed Session Minutes
- November 17, 2021 BOE Closed Session Minutes

Scott Robinson moved to approve the October 20, 2021 BOE Closed Session Minutes, November 10, 2021, COW Closed Session Minutes, November 17, 2021 BOE Closed Session Minutes, and recommend they are to remain closed, seconded by Mary Newman. All in favor 6 ayes. Motion passed.

11. **Consent Items**

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

Financials: Approval of RSD #140 December 2021 bills \$148,694.68, Approval of November reports as follows: Cash Report, Revenue Report, Expenditure Report, Cash & Investment Report, Operating Funds Summary, Fund Balance Report, Treasurer's Report, Check Register, Activity Check Register, Payroll Gross Earnings \$746,942.40, Payroll Liabilities Paid \$416,403.87

- Approval of November 17, 2021 BOE Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative November 2021 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report

- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative November 2021 Financial Reports

Mary Newman motioned to approve the above referenced consent items, seconded by Cynthia Driggers.

Roll Call: Cynthia Driggers, Mary Newman, Mike Plourde, Kelsey Lueshen, Scott Robinson, Steve Harkess

12. Approval of December Personnel

Scott Robinson motioned to approve four non-certified new hires, three non-certified resignation, seconded by Kelsey Lueshen.

Roll Call: Steve Harkess, Scott Robinson, Kelsey Lueshen, Mike Plourde, Mary Newman, Cynthia Driggers

13. Approval of One Year Bus Extension with First Student

Mr. Terry is requesting approval of the one year bus extension with First Student for the 2021-2022 school year with a 3% increase in price.

Steve Harkess motioned to approve a one year bus extension with First Student for the 2021-2022 school year with a 3% increase, seconded by Mary Newman.

Roll Call: Cynthia Driggers, Mary Newman, Mike Plourde, Kelsey Lueshen, Scott Robinson, Steve Harkess

14. Approval of Permanent Sub Positions

Mr. Terry is requesting approval to create permanent substitute positions for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Mary Newman motioned to approve the creation of permanent substitute positions for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Steve Harkess.

Roll Call: Steve Harkess, Scott Robinson, Kelsey Lueshen, Mike Plourde, Mary Newman, Cynthia Driggers

15. COVID

Each building principal gave an update on how the meetings have gone at each school regarding bringing parents back into the buildings:

RGS

- Kindyl Etnyre stated the RGS team has met three times over the past month regarding what the process would look like with class Christmas, Valentine's Day and end of the year classroom celebrations. Staff concerns were taken into consideration and it was decided that there would be one parent volunteer allowed per classroom, and each parent would need to submit their vaccination card or a negative COVID test and masks were mandatory. Mrs. Etnyre stated that she sent a survey out to parents and received 123 responses. Mrs. Etnyre stated that a couple classrooms were piloting a 'mystery reader' program both in-person and virtually depending on staff preference. February's parent/teacher conferences were discussed. Staff was leaning towards one in-person and one virtual conference night. The team is still working on the particulars of how this will look come conference time. The team will next discuss school-wide and PTO events.

WPES

- Megan Forsythe reported a lot of the same findings for the WPES team as RGS. The focus for WPES' last COVID planning committee was on parent volunteers in the building - beginning with the three remaining celebrations. The first would be the Christmas party celebrations that would be taking place at the end of this week. Mrs. Forsythe reported that she had 79 parents express interest in volunteering for these 3 celebrations. 100% of the parents were fine with the guidelines that were given. Of the parents that were chosen, all had submitted their proof of vaccination or COVID negative test well in advance of the deadline.

WPES arrived at the same agreement regarding parent teacher conferences, with one conference being in person and one conference being virtual.

Mrs. Forsythe reported that 3rd & 5th grade students had virtual concerts led by Mr. Newman. She also added that talks are happening regarding field trips being taken outside of school and how that would look. Mr. Bonne advised that the COVID planning committee would also be discussing year end events and that he has received suggestions regarding classroom speakers.

SMMS

- Although SMMS does not have classroom parties, their team met regarding winter conferences and arrived at similar results as RGS & WPES. Mrs. Czizek stated that since all staff are not present at sporting events, there was discussion on how successful spectators have been with the mask guidelines. The same was discussed for Incubator night.
Mrs. Czizek advised that the band concerts were happening the next night and would be in person. Each participant was allowed 6 guests. The concert was broken down into grade level with the first performance happening at 6pm, and the second performing at 7:15pm.
Mrs. Czizek reported that discussions are underway about how SMMS can bring back dances/rec nights. Also, how field day and graduation would look this year.

Mr. Terry reported that the district's numbers this week are not better than the last few weeks. There have been a lot of absences, adding that nurses and administrators are testing 15-20 students three times a week. Winnebago County's numbers are no better. SwedishAmerican Hospital has reported more deaths in the last month from COVID than flu deaths in the last year. Mr. Terry stated that the district's goal at this point is to just stay open.

16. New Business

- Summer Projects

Mr. Terry reported that the cost to update the RGS kitchen has increased significantly from the last proposal and it's a bad environment for bidding given supply chain issues. He recommended that the BOE wait until the summer of 2023 to look at this again and the Board agreed. Mr. Terry also advised that for the exhaust fan installation and intercom upgrade the district would receive quotes. He also advised that he would be asking for approval to go out to bid for the flooring in SMMS office complex along with the parking lot crack filling/sealing/painting at SMMS.

17. Superintendent's Report

- Vaccination Clinic
Mr. Terry reported that the Nations has hosted 2 vaccination clinics at Kinnikinnick School which were open to the public for vaccines or boosters and that both have been highly successful.
- Policy
Mr. Terry advised the BOE that he has received a large Press release and will be working on this over the Christmas break.

18. Administrative Reports

RGS Administrative Report

December 15, 2021

1. Kindyl Etnyre
 - i. Thank you to our Wimpy's shoppers: Betsy Atkins, Jeni Bell, Sally Burie, Lisa Rehfeldt, Erin Parker, Teresa Halom, Robin Hardyman, Tara Kochheiser, Paige Lanning and Amy Stevens! A special thank you to Rebecca Scheppmann for organizing our Kindness Week and Kim Garst for monitoring our donations. We raised \$1211.60 for Wimpy's thanks to our RGS families and staff members!
 - ii. Thank you to Mrs. Joanna Geddes and Thermo Fisher Scientific for supporting our STEM classroom activities at RGS!
2. Erin Hauser
 - i. What a fun week before Winter break at RGS! Santa visits, the sELFie challenge, elf day, an ice cream bar and class parties are just a few of the exciting events happening this week. It has been great seeing all of the smiling faces among our students and staff!
 - ii. RGS, WPES and SMMS would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

WPES Administrative Report

1. Megan Forsythe
 - a. Wimpy's Spirit of Giving Week & Candy Cane Sales - Thank you to Paige VanStine, Laura Brooks, & Rebecca Scheppmann for organizing all of the events, WPES raised \$2,486.84 through donations and candy cane sales! And a shout out to all of our shoppers - Cari Benkovich, Alison

Booth, Tanya Edmundson, Julie Fetters, Ruth King, Tonia Mason, Amy Meier, Ashley Negri, Christina Syring, Gina Tuula, Paige VanSistine, and Taylor Williams, as well as a group of girl scouts who also shopped with money they raised.

- b. Thank you to our Rockton PTO and Board of Education for the added fun this week with our sELFies challenge! What a great way to celebrate our final days of 2021 and bring us together as a team - the kids are loving it, too!

2. Justin Bonne

- a. We want to wish Kayla Kampmeier, Brooke Michowski, and Kyle Michowski all the best as they further their education IN education! All three of these paraprofessionals have gained experience as educators at Whitman Post to learn they want to further their careers in this field. We hope to see them back in Rockton down the road!
- b. PTO - Santa visited RGS and WPES today! He brought so many smiles to our buildings. Santa will head to SMMS on Friday!

SMMS Administrative Report

1. Autumn Czizek

- a. Thank you to all of our students and families who donated for our Wimpy's Spirit of Giving Week. Between dress up days and candy cane sales, we raised \$2100! Thank you to Mrs. Grimes, Ms. Rohs, Mrs. Way and Mrs. Lewis for organizing all of the events of the week!
- b. Our band concert will be held tomorrow night. The sixth grade band will perform at 6 pm and the 7th/8th grade band will perform at 7:15 in the gym at SMMS. We are looking forward to this event! Thanks to Mr. McMillan for organizing!

2. Jacqui Thompson

- a. Currently all Stephen Mack students are participating in a Winter iReady challenge. Homerooms are competing to have the highest number of passed iReady lessons. Winning homerooms will receive donuts and milk. In addition, the top 10 individual students will receive a free Culver's meal. Winners will be determined after we return from break.
- b. The boys basketball season is officially over. The 8th grade team had their final game last week, played their best game yet, but ended up falling a little short to Harlem Orange who knocked them out of the tournament. The 7th grade team competed for 3rd place last night against Roscoe and won with a close score of 33-28. Thank you to the coaches for helping to make this season a success.

19. Members' Comments

None

20. Adjournment

Scott Robinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm, seconded by Mary Newman. Motion carried.


Cynthia Driggers, President


Mary Newman, Secretary