

School Board Meeting – December 14, 2021

Regular Session

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 7:00 P.M.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of School Trustees of the John Glenn School Corporation met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on December 14, 2021 at the Walkerton Elementary School Cafeteria. Board members present were Bob Borlik, Dan Drotar, Jared Egger, Bill Groves, Dennis Holland, and Ryan Knowlton. Christian Mattix was absent. There were 52 observers present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Groves noted his appreciation for the community’s involvement in tonight’s meeting. Mr. Groves reminded those wishing to speak that they are speaking to the board to convey a message and requested that everyone remain civil, courteous and respectful.

Six members of the community addressed the Board to share their thoughts and opinions regarding COVID protocols and medical freedoms. Erica Franklin, Trista Bennett, Krystal Fairchild, Raquel Snyder, Stanley Clark, and Josh Snyder all spoke in favor of medical freedom. Mr. Winchell read statements from Naomi Nelson and Tracy Fry as they were unable to attend. Mr. Winchell went on to note that he and the Board have worked very hard to ensure that public comment has been heard, and noted on the public record. He then noted that starting January 1, 2022, those wishing to make a public comment must be present. Beginning in 2022, Mr. Winchell would not read comments publicly of those not able to attend, nor would anyone be able to use someone else’s time.

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISERS (WES, NLES, UMS, JGHS)

Walkerton Elementary School

➤ Donations

○ School Store (Gift Cards)	\$770	Fourth Grade Teachers
○ School Store (Gift Cards)	\$470	Fifth Grade Teachers
○ School Store (Gift Cards)	\$110	Sixth Grade Teachers
○ Anonymous	\$150	New Athletic Uniforms
○ AJ Screen Printing	\$276	Basketball Spirit Wear
○ Lapaz American Legion	Undisclosed	Adopting 7 families-food boxes

Urey Middle School

➤ Donations

○ Tom and Cindy Idenbarger	\$500	Athletics
○ Tangles Salon – Denise Stigner	\$100	Athletics

John Glenn High School

➤ Donations

○ Blackbaud Giving Fund/Crowe	\$250	Falloween
○ John and Priscilla Duman	\$40	Aerial
○ Delbert Krick Family	\$100	Drama
○ John Glenn Education Foundation	\$500	Drama
○ Richard and Cathy Reese	\$250	Drama

○ Richard and Cathy Reese	\$500	Wrestling
○ Richard and Cathy Reese	\$1000	Baseball
○ Salyer Realty	\$200	Baseball
○ John and Nancy Turner	\$500	Drama
○ Ultra Manufacturing	\$50	Baseball
○ Walkerton Historical Society	\$500	Drama

➤ Fundraisers

○ Bowling Club	11/15-12/10	Raffle
○ Senior Class	11/23/21	Hat Day
○ Freshman Class	12/14/21	Hat Day
○ Freshman Class	12/15/21	Hot Chocolate Sales

Recognitions:

Students at all of our buildings do so many great things that we would like to share with the community. Please see a list of recognitions from each building principal on our website following each meeting.

Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve the donations and fundraisers as listed, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 5

1. Approve Minutes – November 2, 2021 Regular & Executive Session
2. Approve Claims – 1427 - 1654
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Kim Philson | Instructional Aide, 35 hours per week, Walkerton Elementary School |
| b. Randy Schmeltz | Girls Golf Coach, John Glenn High School |
| c. Lydia Henry | Full-time Custodian, North Liberty Elementary School |
| d. Lindsay Bridge | Cafeteria Staff, Urey Middle School |
| e. Jill Groves | Girls and Boys Tennis Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School |
| f. Austin Foust | Social Studies Teacher, John Glenn High School |
| | Varsity Football Head Coach, John Glenn High School |
| | Varsity Club Sponsor, John Glenn High School |
| g. Kim Snyder | Nurse, Walkerton Elementary School |

Appointments/Transfers

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| a. Bryce LeRose | Falcon Pride Wind Instructor, John Glenn High School |
| b. Candace Lewis | Regular Route Bus Driver, John Glenn School Corporation |
| c. Jason Dipert | Full-time Custodian, North Liberty Elementary School |
| d. Madeline Smith | Student Tutor, Urey Middle School |
| e. Leslie Irish | Student Tutor, John Glenn High School |
| f. Laura Patrick | Student Tutor, John Glenn High School |
| g. Korey Horner | Student Tutor, Walkerton Elementary School |
| h. Kristy Wilsey | Student Tutor, Walkerton Elementary School |
| i. Amy Weiss | Student Tutor, Walkerton Elementary School |
| j. Amanda Smith | Assistant Fall Director, John Glenn High School |
| k. Lindsay Ennis | Co-Yearbook Sponsor, Walkerton Elementary School |

- l. Sharon Harasewicz Co-Yearbook Sponsor, Walkerton Elementary School
- m. Tom Cleveland Transfer from Temporary Custodian, John Glenn High School to Full-Time Custodian, John Glenn High School
- n. Jennifer Neff Cafeteria Staff, 20 hours per week, Urey Middle School
- o. Cristyn Messick Transfer from 5th Grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach to 6th Grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach, North Liberty Elementary School
- p. Rhiley Hellyer 6th Grade Girls B-team Basketball Coach, North Liberty Elementary School
- q. Wes Walls 5th Grade Girls B-team Basketball Coach, North Liberty Elementary School
- r. Samantha Johnson Transfer from 5th Grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach to 6th Grade A-team Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School
- s. Brian Bogard 5th Grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach, North Liberty Elementary School

4. Approve FMLA for Employee #1152

5. Approve Transfer Student Request

We currently have 376 transfer students for the 2021-2022 school year, including the two students presented tonight.

Mr. Dennis Holland made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-5 and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint Library Board Member to the St. Joseph County Public Library

Mr. Winchell explained that Indiana Law gives local school corporations the duty to appoint a member to the local library board. These appointments range from two to four years dependent on the county. We recently appointed someone to the Laporte County Library Board and now it is time to appoint someone to the St. Joseph County Library Board. This particular appointment is a joint recommendation with John Glenn and Union North School Corporations. Terry Rensberger has been appointed by Union North, and we are in agreement with this recommendation. Terry has served on our behalf for the past four years. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to appoint Terry Rensberger to the St. Joseph County Public Library Board, and Mr. Dan Drotar seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

2. Approve Seven-Semester Graduate Requests

Mr. Manering presented six students to the Board who have completed all of the requirements for early graduation. Mason Wasmulski, Breana Elder, Riley Jones, Jayden Beagles, Grace Pemberton, and Dylan Rogers have completed all credits and necessary testing. Mr. Manering noted how hard these students have worked to get to this point, and shared that he is extremely proud of them for their dedication. Mr. Winchell commented that previous board member Mr. McCormick always asked early graduates if they were really ready to grow up so fast, and graduate early. He noted that he knows that this group of students has worked very hard with Mr. Manering and the guidance department to meet their requirements, but encouraged the kids to not grow up too quickly. Mr. Groves noted that he is amazed with these students. It is not easy to graduate in seven semesters and the board is very proud of them. Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve Seven-Semester Graduate Requests, and Mr. Dennis Holland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

3. Approve MOU for Boys and Girls Club Data Sharing

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that we are working with the Boys and Girls Club to provide our before and after school care. They are doing a great job, as with any new program there have been some growing pains, but we are working through all of those. As part of this program, the corporation will be providing some tutoring for students to help them get caught up. Boys and Girls Club also offers tutoring as part of the STRIVE Program. This is just an agreement between us and the Boys and Girls Club that we will share data with them, perhaps a class that a student is struggling in, or some sort of data point such as test scores, so that the tutors can hone in on where the student needs the most help. When parents sign up with the boys and girls program, they give permission for this information to be shared between the two entities. This has been reviewed by both sets of attorneys. Mr. Borlik asked if we are also sharing this information directly with the parents so that they are informed of where their students are struggling. Mr. Winchell explained that this will not take place of any current classroom/building practices of notifying and working with parents for the betterment of student achievement, nor discontinue parent-teacher conferences, etc. Mr. Knowlton asked how we will be sure the data is securely shared. Mr. Winchell explained that only staff that will be in our buildings will have access to this information, no one will have outside access to our secured servers. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve MOU for Boys and Girls Club Data Sharing, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

4. Approve Resolution recognizing the position of Business Manager and Director of Technology to Receive PERF Benefits

Mr. Winchell explained that anyone who is a public employee is part of the Public Employee Retirement Fund, or PERF, whereas, if you are a licensed teacher, you are covered under the Teacher Retirement Fund. When Andy Stegemiller retired as the Director of Technology, and we hired Daniel Medesi, and were setting up his retirement account, we realized that Mr. Stegemiller was a member of the TRF since he was a licensed teacher, and so we needed to officially make the Director of Technology a JGSC PERF supported position. That requires the Board to pass a resolution noting that the position is recognized as a PERF supported position. As we were reviewing this, we also realized that the Business Manager was also not currently officially recognized as a PERF position for John Glenn School Corporation. We also wanted to make sure that Mr. Bendy's position was also recognized. This change does not cause the corporation any additional expenses. We will continue providing our portion of the retirement account, this just makes it official down state that the John Glenn School Board recognizes the positions of Director of Technology and Business Manager as PERF federal position. We have cross referenced this with Mr. Kaminski, Corporation Legal Counsel, Lisa Tansell, Legal Counsel for the School Board Association, and the PERF Board. Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve Resolution recognizing the position of Business Manager and Director of Technology to Receive PERF Benefits and Mr. Dennis Holland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

5. Approve Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Groves noted that this is the official action of the Board to approve the new Superintendent Contract. This contract and its details have been published on the school website, as well as in the South Bend Tribune and Plymouth Pilot on October 23, 2021. We then held a public hearing on November 2, 2021 which was seven days after the advertisement per statutory requirements. We have now waited the statutory required ten days since the hearing for the Board to consider official board action. This contract is similar to previous contracts, with an increased compensation similar to other administrators, and reflective of an average teacher salary increase. This contract is retroactive to July 1, 2021 and extends to June 30, 2026. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Superintendent's Contract, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

6. Approve Resolution Declaring Portable Classroom and Miscellaneous Kitchen Equipment Surplus

Mr. Winchell explained that we have some items around the corporation that we have been storing for some time, once you store items for so long, they become trash. We have been doing some spring cleaning since

storage is at such a premium, and have identified multiple items that are no longer needed, or useful, within the corporation. The portable classroom that has been sitting vacant outside of Walkerton Elementary School for some time, as well as several kitchen items that are no longer needed. Mr. Groves has found a company who will come and take the portable classroom off of our hands, where typically you have to pay to have these things removed. This resolution gives us permission to get rid of things that no longer hold value for our corporation. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Resolution Declaring Portable Classroom and Miscellaneous Kitchen Equipment Surplus and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. Mr. Egger made note that he attended 4th grade in that portable classroom, so he is happy to see it gone. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

7. Approve Purchase over \$25,000 – 2022 Ford F250 4x4 Regular Cab Pickup Truck from Oliver Ford for \$42,675

Mr. Winchell noted that the corporation owns two work vans that are used for maintenance purposes. They are both aging, with one in particular that is living on borrowed time. It is time to replace one of these vans. As we have been researching, Mr. Groves noted that it made more sense to look at a pickup truck that would have some plowing capabilities in the winter months. We do contract with a local company who handles the majority of our plowing needs, but this will allow us to touch up high traffic areas as necessary. We also have a lot of need with moving band equipment and some other trailer items around, this will allow us to move them around easily. We are in a position that we can take advantage of a state bid that has already been approved. The supply chain is very backed up, and by approving this purchase tonight, we will be able to get our order in sooner. Mr. Groves added that the supply chain is currently 3-6 months out for this type of purchase. This purchase price includes the plow and all proper lighting that is required, it is the municipality package. Mr. Egger asked who will monitor the use of this vehicle, and Mr. Groves explained that it will be monitored by the transportation department, and only corporation employees will have access to it. Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve Purchase over \$25,000 – 2022 Ford F250 4x4 Regular Cab Pickup Truck from Oliver Ford for \$42,675, and Mr. Dennis Holland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

8. Approve Purchase over \$25,000 – ADA Compliant Playground from Parkreation for \$59,365.99

Mr. Winchell noted that when we put our project out to bid a year ago, we received very competitive pricing. There is a little bit of money left over so we began thinking of things we could do that would directly for the kids. At the same time, Mr. Fuller was dealing with some outdated/aging equipment at Walkerton Elementary. A team came in to review the playground and suggest upgrades that could be made to improve accessibility, as well as remove some outdated equipment and install new. You may remember that we host a life skills class at Walkerton Elementary and have students who use wheelchairs, and have other physical challenges. This upgrade will allow for ADA compliance and access to equipment that we already have. It should be noted that we reviewed playground equipment at North Liberty, but with the help of their PTO, they were able to install new playground equipment within the last several years. They may need some accessibility upgrades, but they are not in need of the complete upgrade as Walkerton Elementary is. Mr. Fuller added that he has previously worked with Parkreation and they are great to work with. Mr. Bill Groves noted that again, with the supply chain issues, we hope that we can get this equipment installed prior to the beginning of school next August. Mr. Dennis Holland made a motion to approve Purchase over \$25,000 – ADA Compliant Playground from Parkreation for \$59,365.99, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- COVID Update – We have been looking very hard at trying to go back to a mask optional scenario. We know that is the desire of many of our parents and we want to be supportive of that. Unfortunately since we met last, and we were trending in the direction of low positivity and close contacts, we have seen an increase. The week of November 7th we only had three positives, the week of November 14th we had 8 positives, and the week of November 21st we only had 4 positives. The week of November 28th, following our Thanksgiving holiday, we were up all the way to 21 positive cases and the week of December 10th we were at 10 positive cases. Obviously the numbers went up, but they are again starting to come down, which is a good sign. If you review the Indiana state map, the whole northern half of the state is currently red, where we had been trending toward yellow, and even blue. Additionally, November 7th until now, with those COVID positives. That could have resulted in 277 kids out of school as close contacts, but due to use taking advantage of masks, only 70 had to quarantine, keeping 207 kids in school. Even though masking is not ultra-popular, it has enabled us to keep kids in school.
- I also would like to follow upon some comments made during public comment. Someone stated that an employee was fired for being anti-mask and that is simply not true. No one has been fired for being against masking or vaccines, or for being supportive of parental choice. In fact, we have an open door policy around here. Anyone is welcome to take any concerns they have to their supervisor at any time. Next, I will continue to note that we have not received any additional funding for having our students and staff wear masks. It has been continually stated that schools around us are not requiring masks and contract tracing. I would be curious to see what funding they have lost. Are they not receiving funding because they are not requiring masks? I believe the answer is no, but it would be interesting to see what funding they have lost by not requiring masks, since it has been alleged that we are receiving additional funds for our protocols. I felt obligated that since I read the statement from a constituent that stated we are receiving additional funding due to our current protocols, I wanted to set the record straight that we are not receiving any additional funding because we require masks. In summary, the numbers were trending in a direction that we could go back to parental choice and not be worried about having to send kids home from school, and unfortunately, we hit a little bubble where positives have increased and we potentially could have sent 277 kids home, but instead we only had to send 77. We are very close to the Christmas Break. We are hopeful in the new year the governor will end his executive order and we will have different directions for the close contact quarantining and we will be able to move back to a parental choice scenario.
- This Friday is the last student day before we go on a two week Christmas Break from school. Some of the activities have already been shared here, but we have had many wonderful student activities kick off our winter seasons. WE are really excited about our winter activities. I also want to note the awesome effort of the choir and band. There have been some wonderful concerts across all levels. We wish everyone a restful, relaxing Christmas Break as we finish up on Friday.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Borlik noted that he listened to a presentation by Mr. Medesi regarding the eSports program and he is amazed that so many kids are involved and excited about the opportunity. It has involved students that wouldn't normally be involved in any school activities. Kudos to all those involved.

Mr. Holland wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a restful break.

Mr. Groves recognized Kristan King for being the typical John Glenn worker who has done a phenomenal job working as an executive assistant to Mr. Winchell. Kristan has recently completed a project on the history of the John Glenn School Board listing all members of the Board since 1963, and what position they held on the board. I can't thank Mrs., King enough for taking the time to go through all the files and complete this research. He continued to note that he had scheduled a meeting with Mr. Winchell to go over his annual performance review and was able to sit in on a month principals meeting that Mr. Winchell holds via Google Meet with building principals and other administrators. It used to be that principals would have to leave their

buildings in order to meet with the superintendent and we all know that schools run better when the principals are present. I was so impressed that this was an hour long, and that is always their goal, to be under an hour. It shows that we are doing this right, they get to express themselves and communicate in a very efficient way. Thank you for what you do administrators, this is not an easy job, and the board wishes to express what a great job you are doing. Mr. Groves also wanted to thank the community. These are hard times for everyone. This is not an easy time to be a board member and it is not easy having patrons that want something that you can't give them. He hopes everyone has a peaceful holiday season.

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 11, 2022 Walkerton Elementary School Cafeteria 7PM

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bill Groves called the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
