

# School Board Meeting – February 1, 2022

## Regular and Executive 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 February 1, 2022, at Walkerton Elementary School. Board members present were Bob Borlik, Jared Egger, Bill Groves, Ryan Knowlton, and Dan Drotar. Christian Mattix and Dennis Holland were absent. Christopher Winchell, Superintendent, and 45 observers were also present.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Five members of the community addressed the Board to share their thoughts and opinions regarding COVID protocols and medical freedoms. Raquel Snyder, Erica Franklin, Krystal Fairchild, and Naomi Nelson and Angie Cripe all spoke in favor of medical freedom and parental choice. They also presented petitions signed by members of our community to be reviewed by each member of the Board.

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

#### Walkerton Elementary:

- Donations
  - Corner Cup Café
  - Miscellaneous hats and gloves for students

#### Urey Middle School:

- Fundraisers
  - Student Council
  - 2/1-2/14/22
  - Candy Grams

#### John Glenn High School:

- Donations
  - AK Industries
  - \$1000
  - Baseball
  - Joanna Dreessen
  - \$150
  - Drama
  - Daniel and Elizabeth Drotar
  - \$50
  - Drama
  - Falcon 500
  - \$100
  - Yearbook
  - Jerrolyn Fansler
  - \$25
  - Drama
  - Gurley Leep
  - \$100
  - Baseball
  - Glenn and Lorraine Jacob
  - \$100
  - Drama
  - Judith Jerosky
  - \$50
  - Drama
  - John and Kimberly Murray
  - \$50
  - Drama
  - Thomas and Debra Walter
  - \$50
  - Drama

Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve the above named donations and fundraisers, and Mr. Bill Groves seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 5

1. Approve Minutes – January 11, 2022– Regular Session & Executive Session, Board of Finance Meeting
2. Approve Claims – 1 - 99

### 3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

#### *Retirements/Resignations*

- a. Christine Houston 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, North Liberty Elementary School
- b. Richard Schieber Project Lead the Way Teacher, John Glenn High School and Urey Middle School
- c. Amanda Smith Theatre Director, Urey Middle School
- d. Ryan Reese 6<sup>th</sup> grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School
- e. Jennifer Traub Robotics Coach, North Liberty Elementary School

#### *Appointments/Transfers*

- a. John Barron Full-time Teacher, John Glenn High School  
Varsity Head Football Coach, John Glenn High School  
Varsity Club Sponsor, John Glenn High School
- b. Jennifer Traub Student Tutor, North Liberty Elementary School
- c. Jill Davis Student Tutor, John Glenn High School
- d. Andrew Soleim Student Tutor, John Glenn High School
- e. Abigail Beckman Student Tutor, John Glenn High School
- f. Dena McLochlin Student Tutor, John Glenn High School
- g. David Kitchell Student Tutor, John Glenn High School
- h. Dyan Phillips Drama Club Coach, Urey Middle School

### 4. Transfer Requests

We currently have 383 transfer students for the 2021-2022 school year, including the student approved tonight.

Mr. Bill Groves made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-4, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

Mr. Winchell took the opportunity to commend Mrs. Christine Houston on her service to public education and John Glenn School Corporation. Mrs. Houston served with John Glenn students with JESSE for five years prior to officially joining our team and serving for the last 36 years.

Mr. Winchell also took a moment to welcome Mr. John Barron as our next Varsity Football Coach. Mr. Barron shared that he is super excited to get started working with our team and win some championships.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Appoint Library Board Member to the Walkerton-Lincoln Township Public Library

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that one of the Boards responsibilities is to appoint members to the local library boards. We have done this recently with the La Porte County Library, as well as the St. Joseph County Library Board in past meetings and now we need to appoint for our local Walkerton-Lincoln Township Public Library. The two recommendations are Ms. Lisa Rizek, and Mrs. Carol Kuzmich and Mr. Winchell is very supportive of this appointment. Mr. Bill Groves made a motion to appoint Library Board Members to the Walkerton-Lincoln Township Public Library, and Mr. Dan Drotar seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

## 2. Approve Snow Removal Agreement with Town of North Liberty

Mr. Winchell noted that interestingly enough, the drive way in front of North Liberty Elementary School is actually a road that belongs to the Town of North Liberty. The town is very willing to plow the road out in front of North Liberty to help cut down on the amount of area that we pay to have plowed, but the turnaround at the south end of North Liberty Elementary, where the buses pull in, is technically private property. To keep all of the attorneys and insurance companies happy, we needed to bring this agreement to the Board, giving the Town permission to plow this private drive, when they are finished doing the road. Mr. Will Groves added that this will allow for cleaner plowing, with less large piles of snow in our parking lot. Mr. Borlik asked if this is a goodwill gesture by the town and Mr. Winchell noted that yes, this is a good will gesture by the town and that is largely in part to Will Groves, who is doing a great job furthering a great partnership with the town. Mr. Winchell also noted that this agreement has been reviewed by our attorney and insurance company, as well as the Town's attorney and insurance companies and they are all in agreement. Mr. Bill Groves added that it is great that the town and the school can work so well together. Mr. Bill Groves made a motion to approve Snow Removal Agreement with the Town of North Liberty, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

## REPORTS

### 1. Director of Learning Report – Mr. Tim Davis

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- Boys and Girls club has been working at both elementary schools since August. This program was put in place in a very short amount of time and has experienced a few growing pains. A meeting was held in January to work out some of the kinks and things seem to be progressing well. They also just announced that for the summer, they will be holding a seven week summer camp that will be free of charge. It will be held Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5:30pm. More details to come.
- The tutoring program is in full swing in all the schools. We are continually adding more tutors as we see the need.
- Head Start has started at St. Patrick's Church and is going great. The very first day we experienced a small flood when a toilet wouldn't stop running, but with the hard work of our maintenance and custodial staff, partnered with the church staff and vendors, we were able to continue holding classes and get things back to normal. We hope to have the board tour the classrooms soon.
- Math book adoption is taking place for grades K-12. Teachers went to a caravan at Swan Lake last week, and we are currently collecting books to review with their peers, and eventually parents to make sure that we are making the best selection for our students.

### 2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- I'd like to recognize the John Glenn Education Foundation. It was with their support that we were able to get the Fork Farms project started at the elementary schools. Their willingness to purchase one of the farms, and the school corporation the other, is just another example of what a great work they do for our teachers and students. What a partner we have in JGEF.
- Also special recognition goes to the coaches, students and parents here tonight. The wrestlers, coaches and parents went out of their way to attend a tournament in Indianapolis. Mr. Goewert has done a great job in drumming up interest in participating in state level events, as you might

remember we had some students recently participate in the middle school track finals. Those things take extra effort from all involved. I'd also like to take a minute to recognize the basketball team, this is a great example of how having involvement from the lower levels to the upper levels, having a team that sets some goals, a coach who pushes his athletes, not only in the gym but in the off season and in the weight room can result in a 17-0 season, and a team who has won the Bi-County Tournament four times in a row, which is very rare. We are excited to see all of these things come together, it is not possible without the dedication of our students, staff and parents.

- COVID Update – since our last meeting in January, the week of January 9, we had 62 positive COVID cases that resulted in a potential 272 close contacts, but due to our masking efforts, only 112 students needed to quarantine at home. The week of January 16<sup>th</sup>, we had 45 positive cases resulting in 125 close contacts, 84 of which got to stay in school. The week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had 29 positive cases which resulted in 124 close contacts, 66 which were able to stay in school due to our current protocols. I want to remind everyone that we are using the mask mandate to drastically reduce the amount of close contacts that we have to quarantine at home. Unfortunately, some of our neighboring schools to the south who do not have mask mandates in place, had to switch to district-wide virtual learning recently. As much as we are not fans of the masking, we are even less fans of long term virtual learning. We continue to be in communication with the local health departments, unfortunately, every county in the state is in the red on the COVID positivity map. We are still moving forward to a mask optional plan when the governor's executive order expires and when we get back to a more manageable color code statistic. Additionally, I had a recent conversation with Representative Teshka and they are trying to put some policies in place down in Indianapolis that would allow school corporations such as us, more flexibility and be less tied to the state department of health. They haven't accomplished this yet, but these are things in the works.
- Greene Township – You may remember that there have been many conversations over the last five years, and even dating back to the early 1980's, about Greene Township joining the John Glenn School Corporation. We are excited to report that due to the work of the township trustee, Sandy Ort, Representative Teshka and Senator Bohacek, there has been collaboration between South Bend and John Glenn working on an annexation plan. There are many details that still need to be worked out, particularly about the tax rate, transportation needs and the building that is located in Greene Township, but I am very excited to report that this is moving forward. The reason this is important is through open enrollment we have been educating the majority of the students from Greene Township and we are happy to do so. So many of those families have chosen to come our way through open enrollment, it only makes sense that we be able to collect some of the revenue from the township taxpayers to support our costs. To our John Glenn families, this means a potential for reduced tax rates. Much more to come soon. Sandy Ort, Greene Township Trustee added that she has been working on this since they closed the Greene School in 2018. When open enrollment provided the opportunity, we were happy to be welcomed by the families of Walkerton and North Liberty. Just listening to this meeting tonight, this Corporation is doing so many good things for our students. The teachers are doing a fantastic job of educating our students, keeping them healthy and keeping them interested in learning and their futures. She is thankful to all the teachers and administrators of John Glenn. She wants the people to know that they should appreciate and be grateful for what they have in a school system here at John Glenn. Her tenacity is paying off.

## 2. Conference Requests

- a. Amanda Smith
- b. Bethany Laizure
- c. Taylor Kalucki
- d. Andy Buss
- e. Laine Vincent
- f. Glenda Smith

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Borlik told the Ort family that he was part of the Board when it was first brought up as a possibility of Greene Township joining JGSC. The list of odds has gone from extremely long, to very short and that is due to efforts on their part. Thank you.

Mr. Groves echoed Mr. Borlik’s sentiments. There were many road blocks in front of you, but you pushed through and will finally be able to see this through and get the education you deserve for the students in your township.

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 15, 2022 7:00 P.M. WES Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan Knowlton called the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was called to order at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the purchase or lease of real property, school consolidation, and to discuss confidential records. No other items were discussed and the executive session was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

PRES. \_\_\_\_\_

SEC'Y. \_\_\_\_\_

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