

School Board Meeting – July 16, 2024 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 July 16, 2024, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Bob Borlik, Jared Egger, Christian Mattix, Todd McGaughey and Carissa Smith. Christine Carson and Ryan Knowlton were absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 9 observers were present through Consent Agenda, and 8 observers were present for the remainder of the meeting.

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

There were no Recognitions, Fundraisers & Donations presented at this meeting due to Summer Break.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public made comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – June 18, 2024 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 103068 through 103247
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. Meredith Courteau | Teacher, John Glenn High School |
| b. Anna Willis | Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School |

Appointments

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a. LaDora Smith | Special Education Preschool Teacher, John Glenn School Corporation |
| b. Jennifer Roseberry | Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School |
| c. Tresa Hammond | Part-time Assistant Director of Special Education, John Glenn School Corporation |
| d. Becca Blosser | Part-time Cafeteria Staff, Urey Middle School |

4. Approve Conflict of Interest Statement

Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 – 4 and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

5. Separate Consent Agenda Item – Approve Personnel Recommendation – Ashlee Egger, Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Ashlee Egger, Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School and Mr. Bob Borlik seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to zero with Mr. Jared Egger abstaining.

Mr. Winchell took the opportunity to welcome new teammates Ashlee Egger and LaDora Smith.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Overnight Field Trip – Cross Country Camping Trip

Mr. Winchell noted that Board Policy requires that the board approve overnight field trips. The Cross Country Team plans an overnight camping trip each year. These activities that our coaches and sponsors conduct are very special activities that our students are able to attend. We appreciate our coaches and sponsors for going the extra mile to plan these fun activities. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Overnight Field Trip – Cross Country Camping Trip and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

2. First Reading of NEOLA Policies 0100, 5136 and 5200

Mr. Winchell explained that many of the laws passed by the General Assembly require us to update our Board Policies. NEOLA is a legal firm that specializes in school board policy and legislative action. NEOLA reviews all new legislation that is passed and then recommends updates to our board policies. Tonight we have three policies for the first reading. PO 0100 provides a series of language updates, PO 5200 updates language regarding absenteeism and PO 5136 updates language regarding personal communication devices. As we know, attendance at school is crucial and the legislation is recognizing that absenteeism rates are increased, particularly post COVID. We often find ourselves in unique situations trying to get kids to come to school under Indiana Law, as there is a law that states anyone under the age of 18 must attend school, but we do not always have the enforcement support of the local juvenile justice center. This recommendation updates definitions of absenteeism and chronic absenteeism and also reminds the juvenile justice system and prosecutors that they need to support the schools. PO 5136 references personal communication devices which can include smart watches, cell phones, tablets and computers. The Legislature has also acknowledged that cell phones may be a distraction in school, but they have also said kids must have their cell phones available in case of an emergency. The expectation is that schools have a policy on how cell phones will be handled. We have had a policy in place for a long time. Our perspective has always been to trust the educators and the hands on staff who work with the students to be fair and ensure a great learning environment. When teachers think it is appropriate to use the communication devices as an educational tool they can, and when the teachers don't think it is appropriate to use communication devices in the class room, they have the right to direct students to put them away. This will be a point of emphasis for us at John Glenn this year. Sometimes in the sports arena, the officials will focus on enforcing one particular rule or point of emphasis for that season. What the Legislature has done, has given educators the ability to make cell phone distractions a point of emphasis. The language that we will adopt, is the recommendations from NEOLA that model our local control approach. Just as we want local control as a corporation, we want our teachers to have local control in their classrooms. Student body meetings will be held to outline these policies to students, particularly at the secondary level. There is no action to be taken tonight. On July 30th, we will bring these policies back for a second reading and approval.

3. Approve Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund in the amount of \$166,666.67

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that this is our quarterly request to transfer funds from our Education Fund to the Operations Fund. State statute requires us to approve this transfer quarterly. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the

Operations Fund in the amount of \$166,666.67 and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

4. Preliminary Determination Hearing

Mr. Winchell noted that John Glenn School Corporation exists to provide, protect and increase student programming. The best way to protect student programming is to have good financial planning. One of the key issues in sound financial planning for schools is having a highly thought out facilities plan. In the last five years, we have put a substantial effort into our facilities plans and have put a substantial effort into updating our infrastructure. There has been a real effort by the Board and school team to invest in our buildings. Since we have some debt rolling off of our books, we have the financial opportunities to look at the next phase of our facilities plan. Combined with the nice donation from the Reese Family, we are looking at improving some outdoor areas to make them great for kids and more conducive for our families. Tonight, you will hear from Karen at Barton Coe Vilamaa regarding the potential project, and Brock from Baker Tilley regarding the financial options. In general, we have already approved field lighting for the baseball, softball and football fields. We are looking at updating baseball and softball areas to have new bleachers that would be ADA compliant. There is a need to update the backstop at the baseball diamond. We are looking at the need for restrooms and concession stands to service the soccer and softball fields as they are currently serviced with port-a-potties. Along with those updates, we need to update our ADA pathways and entrances to make them more accessible and look at updating some of our chain-link security fencing. As we have looked at the budget, we have added a few other things. There are 800 lockers in the high school. 200 of them are in the senior hallway, they are newer and still in very good condition. The other 600 lockers are original and a lot of them cannot close and we were not able to change the combinations. In the current project at WES, part of the project is updating bathrooms around the school corporation. The next set of restrooms to be updated is the original PE locker rooms and restrooms at JGHS. This does not include the locker rooms/restrooms that were part of the 2004 auxiliary gym project. We have also planned a potential small solar project on top of the auxiliary gym roof here at the high school. Overall, we are budgeting conservatively. All of these projects combined are approximately \$11 million, with one alternate for lockers and bleachers at the football field on the current visitors' side. At one time, the current visitors' side used to be the home side. One alternate scenario looks at flipping the visitor and home stands with a new set of bleachers, which may prove to be cost prohibitive. The other alternate scenario would just replace the visitor stands as they are. We do not need to make any official decisions tonight, but this is the priority list for this upcoming bond. Karen from Barton Coe Vilamaa provided a complete overview of projected costs with the reminder that this budget is very conservative. She also explained that we will need a sight survey to assess what we need, and assess what the grade of the walkways will need to be to keep our patrons safe. Brock from Baker Tilly provided a thorough explanation of the financing options for the bond making special note that for the beginning of this process we are outlining maximum parameters of the potential bond and repayment schedule. We would borrow a maximum of \$10 million with a maximum repayment of 20 years. Mr. Jared Egger opened the public hearing at 7:41 p.m. With no public comment being made, the public hearing was closed at 7:43 p.m.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- Thank you to Karen and Brock for being here tonight to explain our options. We spend a lot of time on facilities. Thanks to the board for listening to all the presentations. It is a very special opportunity to be able to invest \$10 million into our buildings and not increase our tax rate, just as we have done for the last five years. We work very hard to keep our tax rate neutral. Although there is no official action needed by the board, the board gave Mr. Winchell their blessing to continue with the bond process and look into obtaining the surveys necessary.
- In-person registration is July 23rd from 3-7 p.m. at the high school.

- Our annual back to school bash that is led by local churches, Lisa Patton from Main Street Realty and Emily Winchell will be held on Saturday, August 3rd in the Town of Walkerton Building Parking Lot.
- The first teacher day will be Monday, August 5th and students will start on Wednesday, August 7th. Our back to school meeting with staff will be on Monday the 5th after lunch.
- Last meeting, Mr. Mattix asked if we had considered an updated demographic study due to the manufacturing growth in our surrounding areas. Dr. Jerome McKibben is recognized as the expert in Indiana demographic studies. I have reached out to him to re-engage with us here at John Glenn.
- You may or may not have heard that the State Legislature passed a bill that requires school corporations that have empty or underutilized buildings to develop a “Building Board” similar to the Board of Finance that all corporations have. South Bend has several underutilized buildings so they have this committee and discussed the Greene Township Building. There is an upcoming meeting of the South Bend Community School Corporation Building Disposition Committee. It is not very clear what the options are with the building due to outstanding bonds. In the resolution that was signed for the annexation of Greene Township, John Glenn was given the option to purchase the Greene Township school building within one year for the average price of two appraisals. However, it is unclear how recent legislation views the appraisal of a school between two municipalities. I spoke with them to indicate that we have interest in the building but have concerns regarding expenses. I have engaged with the legislators to see why a charter school would be able to purchase the building for a dollar, but a public school could potentially have to pay “fair market value”. Jake Teshka was sensitive to our concerns. I am sure we will circle back to this many times. Mr. McGaughey asked if we do purchase the building, what would we do with it. First, it is important to JGSC to get the building, because we know how important this building is to our friends in Greene Township. If we own it, it prevents a charter school from moving into it. In the very far off future, it may be necessary for us to re-open the building in some capacity, as long as it isn’t cost prohibitive. Lastly, it could be reopened for many purposes if enrollment grew for preschool, CTE, traditional education, etc.
- The Superintendent’s Evaluation has been completed and the board would like to do a five year contract extension with the same salary and benefits currently outlined in the contract. Per state statute, we will advertise for a public hearing at the next meeting and then consider approval after the public hearing. The contract remains the same for salary and benefits. The only simple change is we are moving his five days of continuing education to an additional 5 day of vacation time.
- Ms. Carissa Smith asked about the progress at Walkerton Elementary School, will it be ready in time for school to start? Mr. Winchell reminded the board that we were not planning on the building project being complete for the start of the school year. It will be ready to receive students and hold classes, but will not be completed until late in the school year. However a lot of wonderful progress has been made and the students and staff are coming back to school in a much updated building. Mr. Groves added that we changed the scope of the project and added bathroom renovations which in turn, increased the amount of time the project would take. Fortunately, the projects that are completed look amazing. The new student furniture has arrived and is being assembled.
- Mr. Borlik asked about the window film that has been installed at the high school and whether we plan to install similar at the other buildings. Mr. Groves said yes, as part of the safety grant we were awarded last year, we are planning to install this at every building over the next couple of years. We want to be careful to not install it on items that are soon to be renovated. These window coverings are expected to last 5 years.

2. Conference Requests
 - a. Wendy Flora

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Online Registration Begins 7/17/24

In-Person Registration – John Glenn High School – 7/23/24

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 30, 2024 7:00 P.M. John Glenn Administration Building

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jared Egger called the meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
