

School Board Meeting – July 30, 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 30, 2024, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Bob Borlik, Christine Carson, Jared Egger, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix and Carissa Smith. Todd McGaughey was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 17 observers were present through Consent Agenda, and 9 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 – 3

1. Approve Minutes – July 16, 2024 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 103248 through 103373
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| a. Beth Albright | Teacher, Urey Middle School |
| b. Taylor Kalucki | Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School |
| c. Rebecca Snyder | Regular Route Bus Driver, John Glenn School Corporation |
| d. Candace Lewis | Regular Route Bus Driver, John Glenn School Corporation |
| e. Kim Philson | Volleyball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School |

Appointments

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| a. Travis Hannah | Fall and Winter Event Coordinator, Walkerton Elementary School |
| b. Anthony Borrelli | Teacher, John Glenn High School |
| c. Rachel Wallace | Teacher, John Glenn High School |
| d. Patricia Schafer | Teacher, John Glenn High School |
| e. Megan Wiesenberg | Teacher, Urey Middle School |
| | Assistant Track Coach, Urey Middle School |
| f. Chris Adkins | Assistant Football Coach, Urey Middle School |
| g. Conner Shreve | Part-time Instructional Assistant, Urey Middle School |
| | Boys Basketball JV Head Coach, John Glenn High School |
| h. Sean Haas | Fall Event Coordinator, Urey Middle School |
| i. Benjamin Dermody | Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School |
| | Assistant Football Coach, Urey Middle School |
| | Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, John Glenn High School |

- j. Natasha Norris Temporary Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School
- k. Adhemar Ennis Part-time Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School
- l. Jeniece Meeks Volleyball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School

Transfers

- a. Aimee Egger Transfer from School Nurse, North Liberty Elementary School to Elementary Corporation Nurse
- b. Kristen Nicks Transfer from School Nurse, Urey Middle School to Secondary Corporation Nurse
- c. Travis Hannah Transfer from 6th Grade Teacher to Physical Education Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School
- d. Billy Harness Transfer from Boys Basketball Freshman Coach to Boys Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School

Mr. Winchell informed the Board that Mrs. Kalucki has requested a one-year maternity leave. Our Collective Bargaining Agreement allows for a teacher to request a one year leave of absence and we are happy to accommodate that. We will be happy to welcome her back next year. He went on to note that with Mrs. Russell’s retirement as the corporation nurse, we felt that the needs in the nursing department have grown over time. In order to better serve our students and community, we are recommending that Aimee Egger take the lead on the elementary schools and that Kristen Nicks take the lead on the secondary schools rather than just one corporation nurse.

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 – 3 and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

Mr. Winchell took this opportunity to welcome our new staff to the team and to congratulate Becky Snyder on her retirement. Mrs. Snyder faithfully served the corporation for 28 years as a bus driver.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Second Reading of NEOLA Policies 0100, 5136, 5200

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that State Legislature meets annual and they pass laws that effect public entities, including schools. Each July, those laws come into effect and we work with NEOLA to ensure that our policies match the new laws. We held our first reading of these policies at our meeting on July 16th, and tonight we will hold our second reading as well as entertain a motion to approve them. These policy updates put us in compliance with legislation. Policy 0100 is an update on language and definitions. Policy 5136 addresses cell phones. The State Legislature has instructed us to allow students to have their cell phones in case of an emergency but also to protect the sanctity of instructional time. We have adopted appropriate language to be in legal compliance. At John Glenn we believe in building relationships with students, we believe in the teacher managing their classroom as they are the closest adult to the kids. Adopting this new language, we continue with the philosophy that the teacher can and will manage their classrooms. However, we will remind teachers, kids and parents of the importance of instructional time and reduce distractions as much as possible. Policy 5200 is an update on attendance. The Legislature has provided new definitions about truancy and chronic absenteeism. John Glenn has always been known to be on top of attendance, but we have often struggled at times to get help from an over-taxed juvenile justice system and an over-taxed probation department. Mr. Winchell recommended that we adopt these policies to ensure we are in compliance. We will have updated handbooks for your approval at our next meeting that reflect these updates. We are proud that the Legislature has reminded the local probation and judicial departments that they need to support schools when they have students who are having an issue with chronic absenteeism. Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve NEOLA

Policies 0100, 5136, 5200 and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

2. Project Hearing and Preliminary Determination Hearing

Mr. Winchell explained that tonight's public hearing will do two different things. First is the project hearing which provides the public the opportunity to speak in favor of/or against the project we have discussed for the last few months. The second will provide the public the opportunity to speak in favor of or share concerns about the financing of this project. Ryan Bowland from Barton Coe Vilamaa reviewed the project list in detail. This project addresses updates to the outdoor facilities at the high school which will make them more ADA accessible, a small solar project at the high school and a continuation of the restroom renovations that we have been working hard to complete. The original locker rooms are the next set of restrooms on the list to be addressed. We are also in need of lockers at JGHS. The general aspects of this project list will not be able to change after tonight, but the specific details can change between now and when the project goes out to bid. For example, HVAC needs may have to rise as a greater need than something else proposed as this time. At our last meeting, Mr. McGaughey asked about repairs of the tennis courts at the high school. Today they started a project to make them usable and safe until we can replace them in full. These repairs should last 3 to 5 years. Mr. Brock Bowsher, from Baker Tilly provided detailed information regarding the financing options for this project. As we pay debts off, it makes sense to reinvest those funds into our buildings. These new bonds will be tax neutral. At our last meeting, Mr. McGaughey asked what the 2015 bond was for that we are paying off. After some research it was determined that it was a bond that was used to refinance our 2004-2005 bonds in order to get better interest rates. For our current bond, we are considering a maximum of \$10 million for a maximum of 20 years. After reviewing the project parameters and financing options, Mr. Jared Egger opened the public hearing at 7:30 PM. With no public comment being made, Mr. Egger closed the hearing at 7:31 PM.

3. Approve Project Resolution (Exhibit A)

Mr. Winchell informed the Board that by approving the Project Resolution, the Board is approving the description that was published in the newspaper which outlines that we are looking at a plethora of projects from outdoor facilities at the high school to indoor facilities corporation wide. We included the potential of a small solar project. We have a pretty narrow idea of what we want to do but we have enough wiggle room to handle immediate repairs that are time sensitive. For example, failed HVAC could be something that would surface from now until the time of the official project bid. By approving the Project Resolution, you are approving this project scope and going on the record that it is our intention to move forward. We will enter into a thirty day petition remonstrance period where any tax payer who wants to dispute the project or financing options, has the right to go to the county clerk's office and get a petition remonstrance form and begin that process. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Project Resolution (Exhibit A) and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

4. Approve Preliminary Determination (Exhibit B)

Mr. Winchell commented that the official action the Board is taking is to approve our preliminary plan to fund these projects. Brock has shared that our maximum bond is \$10 million with a 20 year maximum payoff. We also have information for the public on how this will affect the debt service fund. We are not anticipating any increase to the debt service fund. He also made note that we have met the statutory requirements of publishing this in the newspaper and on our website, as well as holding two preliminary determination hearings. Pending Board approval tonight, we will publish in the newspaper that the Board has made the Preliminary Determination for our project funding. Once this is published in the newspaper, Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Preliminary Determination (Exhibit B) and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

5. Approve Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures (Exhibit C)

Mr. Winchell explained that this is the Board officially going on the record to say that any expenses accumulated for the project before the bonds are sold, we are able to reimburse ourselves in the Operations Fund. For example, we have determined that we will need to have a site survey completed to ensure we can put the bleachers and sidewalks where we want to put them. We know that this expense will happen prior to the bonds being sold. Once the bonds are sold, we will reimburse ourselves for that expense. Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures (Exhibit C) and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

6. Public Hearing on Superintendent's Contract and Contract Approval

Mr. Jared Egger reminded the Board that they have completed the annual superintendent's evaluation. They are recommending an updated five year contract. In the 2025-26 school year, we will move five continuing education days to vacation days. His tax sheltered annuity will be capped at \$9,000. A renewal clause that will extend this contract one additional year for each year the superintendent receives an effective or highly effective evaluation. Mr. Jared Egger shared that Mr. Winchell had an excellent evaluation where he was highly effective. Mr. Egger also noted that the Board did not want to lose their highly effective superintendent and this rollover clause would support longevity. Mr. Winchell added that we have completed the statutory requirements by advertising this contract in the newspapers and on our website. The public hearing was opened at 7:39 PM. With no public comments being made, the hearing was closed at 7:40 PM. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Superintendent's Contract as discussed and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Director of Learning Report

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- New legislation has been released that 2nd Graders will be required to take the IREAD-3 exam. As we have reported, JGSC students have taken the IREAD-3 exam as 2nd and 3rd graders for the last several years. If a student does not pass in 2nd grade, they re-take the test as a 3rd grader. It is now state law that all 2nd grade students take the exam. Students who are deemed "at risk" on the 2nd grade IREAD-3 must be offered summer school.
- THE IDOE is in the process of redesigning the ILEARN. The ILEARN season is two weeks of intense testing for our students that takes place in April. Big changes are being made this school year. Schools across the State have the opportunity to opt-in to the "ILEARN Checkpoint". There will be three checkpoints throughout the school year for the students to be tested so that schools will have time to remediate students who are struggling before the official ILEARN test is given in April. There will be four testing seasons for students 2nd through 8th grade. This is an opt-in year for 2024-25 but will be required for 2025-26.
- Dr. Fuller provided an in-depth review of the April 2024 ILEARN scores for Grades 3-8. There are only two neighboring school corporations who have scored higher than JGSC in ELA and Math. Across the board, John Glenn Schools are doing fantastic but we have room for improvement so that we can be at the top of this list. 48% of our students are passing the ELA exam when the state standard is 41%. 50.3% of our students are passing the math exam when the state standard is 40.7%. 35.7 % of our students are passing both tests.

2. Director of Technology Report

Mr. Daniel Medesi reported the following:

- The State provides funding to keep our infrastructure and network up to date and on par.
- In order to continue receiving these funds from the State, you must use them.

- 33 switches have been installed that give us all the connections in the walls that go to the computers, and Wi-Fi access points. We used several high quality switches that can handle the internet traffic on a daily basis.
- We have 40 Wi-Fi access points that were switched out throughout the corporation with the main focus to the Wi-Fi points at NLES since they were the oldest/most worn.
- The installation of all of these points only took 3-4 days, but programming has taken all summer. We are 99% completed.
- We are very happy with the company we used. They have provided amazing customer service and are on stand-by for the first few days of school should we encounter any issues.
- Thank you to the Board for supporting and approving these projects and opportunities to spend these State funds.
- The Board was invited to go on a tour of the infrastructure with Mr. Medesi once the school year gets started.

3. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We held our annual Administrator Workshop last week. Thank you to BCV, Astra Insurance, American Fidelity and Moon Tree Studios for sponsoring this event. It was nice to have Mrs. Kaser and Mrs. Hannah join us as official members of the administration team. This workshop allows us to remember the priorities of John Glenn. Building relationships, kids first, staff second, protecting and expanding student programming and working together to make it seamless as possible for our teachers so they can focus on teaching our kids.
- We are finalizing our back to school plans. Our annual bus driver meeting is tomorrow. New teacher orientation will be held August 1st and our annual back to school meeting will be held on Monday, August 5th. The Board is cordially invited to attend.
- I have continued talking with Dr. Jerome McKibben about a demographic study. I had previously mentioned his presentation at the ISBA and sent it to all of you. If you would like a hard copy of the presentation, please let us know. He shares great information. One very interesting stat is that the State of Indiana has had a decrease of 75% in kids compared to the baby boom era. We watch our student count very closely as it funds about 75% of our corporation.
- We have sent a message to SBCSC that we would like to do a walkthrough of the Greene Township School. We are also working with Bill Kaminski and his partners to get an estimated budget of what it would cost to maintain the Greene building if we were to gain possession. What would our expenses be for insurance, general upkeep and utilities so that in the event we do reach a purchase agreement with South Bend, we need to be prepared to maintain the building financially.

4. Director of Facilities Report

Mr. Will Groves reported the following:

- We will be ready to start school on Wednesday!
- The buildings are far from finished, but there are noticeable improvements at both Walkerton and North Liberty Elementary Schools.
- Our buildings will be safe and secure for students and staff and our partners at Gibson Lewis will continue working hard.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elementary Open House – August 5th – 530-7pm

UMS Open House – August 6th – 530-7pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 6, 2024 7:00 P.M. John Glenn Administration Building

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jared Egger called the meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
