

## **School Board Meeting – October 15, 2024 Regular & 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 October 15, 2024, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Jared Egger, Ryan Knowlton, Todd McGaughey, Christian Mattix and Carissa Smith. Bob Borlik and Christine Carson were absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and four observers were present throughout the meeting.

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

There were no Donations and Fundraisers presented at this meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – October 1, 2024 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers 103760 through 103381
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

### ***Retirements/Resignations***

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Jennifer Stout | Head Volleyball Coach, Urey Middle School      |
| b. Matt Rust      | Boys Basketball Head Coach, Urey Middle School |

### ***Appointments***

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| a. Alyssa Schoof  | Secretary, Urey Middle School                           |
| b. Donia Hudgen   | Guidance Department Head, John Glenn High School        |
| c. Angela Pearish | Head Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School      |
| d. Brittany Davis | Assistant Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School |

4. Approve Transfer Students

To date, we have 75 new transfer students for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Winchell reported that we had 108 transfer students from Greene Township for the 2023-24 school year. There are now 150 Greene Township students who are now resident enrollees. We anticipated that those 108 students would switch from transfer students to resident enrollees, but we did not know how many additional students would join us from Greene Township. At this time there are approximately 50.

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

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve NIESC Snack and Beverage Award

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that we belong to the Northern Indiana Educational Service Center (NIESC). One of the main services that they provide is food bids. The service center has collected bids for snacks and beverage and approve them through the service center. Glenda Smith, Food Service Director is now recommending that we approve the same snack and beverage awards as well. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve NIESC Snack and Beverage Award and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

## 2. Adopt Resolution to Approve 2025 Budget as Advertised

Mr. Winchell noted that this is the final step to approve the 2025 Budget. Once it is approved, it will be submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) who will provide us a 1782 Notice that serves as the official budget. This process started in July. The Board granted permission to advertise the budget on September 17<sup>th</sup>. We held a public hearing on October 1<sup>st</sup> with no public comment being heard and finally we are recommending adoption of the resolution to approve the 2025 Budget tonight. Mr. Bendy is available for any questions. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve the 2025 Education Fund, Operations Fund, Debt Service Fund and Rainy Day Fund as advertised and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

## 3. Adopt Resolution to Approve 2025 Capital Projects Plan

Mr. Winchell noted that, again, this is a part of the annual budget process. We try to list capital project expenses over \$25,000 that are outside of bond work. This plan is updated annually and advertised according to state statute. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve the 2025 Capital Projects Plan and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

## 4. Adopt Resolution to Approve 2025 Bus Replacement Plan

Mr. Winchell stated that similar to the Capital Projects Plan, we maintain a Bus Replacement plan. There is a five year version of this plan, as well as a twelve year version. In anticipation of action items nine and ten, part of our work for the max levy appeal is to update that Bus Replacement Plan. That involved comparing the plan that was approved last year with the plan you are approving this year that includes the addition of eight buses. Five of those buses we purchased used as a bridge to expedite our transportation services in Greene Township. They will eventually have to be replaced. Three additional buses that you approved for purchase at our last meeting were also added. The Bus Replacement Plan being recommended tonight includes these eight buses. Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve the 2025 Bus Replacement Plan and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

## 5. Public Hearing – Fifth Amendment to Lease

Mr. Egger explained that we will hold a public hearing on the proposed Fifth Amendment to Lease, which incorporates the terms of a Lease Agreement dated October 15, 2024. This is an opportunity for the public to make comments about the increased lease rental to be paid under the Lease. The Notice of this Hearing on the Fifth Amendment to Lease was publish as legally required. Mr. Egger opened the hearing at 7:12 P.M. and with no public comment being heard, the hearing was closed at 7:13 P.M.

## 6. Approve Resolution Authorizing Execution of Fifth Amendment to Lease

Mr. Winchell noted that our school corporation is funding this project through a lease financing as it has done in the past with other construction projects. Currently, the John Glenn High School high school building is under a financing lease tied to the 2004 Lease Rental Bonds. Therefore, instead of creating a new lease, we are asking the board to amend the current lease which will increase the rent that is due from

the previous bond which will allow the school corporation and the building corporation to take those bonds and pay those bonds. Mr. Knowlton asked what the statutory requirement is that we have to do this. Mr. Winchell explained that by statute, school corporations have a maximum debt that they can hold. Those bonds are through General Obligation Bonds or G.O. Bonds. Many years ago, a group of attorneys devised a plan that would allow schools to obtain financing outside of a G.O. Bond called the Lease Rental Bond. This is now a very common practice where school corporations will take a portion of a building and lease it to a separate third party building corporation who then holds the title for that building in order to fund a building project. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Execution of Fifth Amendment to Lease and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

#### 7. Approve Resolution Assigning Construction Bids and Contracts, Once Received

Mr. Winchell explained that the building corporation currently holds the lease on the high school building. The building corporation will also be the issuer of the bonds. The bond proceeds will be held by the trustee bank, and will be used to pay the contractors for the work done on the building. As a result, the construction bids and contracts will need to be held by the Building Corporation because the Building Corporation will hold the money to pay the contractors. The School Corporation receives the bids and/or contracts and awards the bids and/or contracts under State law but then assigns those bids and/or contracts to the Building Corporation. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Resolution Assigning Construction Bids and Contracts, Once Received and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

#### 8. Approve Resolution Authorizing Third Supplement to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking

Mr. Winchell commented that we as a school corporation are presenting a true and accurate financial status to the public and potential bond bidders. This continuing disclosure ensures that our financial situation changes substantially, we will notify the SEC and the bond holders. For example, if a school corporation were to suffer a law suit that would not be covered under their insurance and had to pay a substantial settlement, they would need to report that to bond holders and the SEC that their financial situation had changed. Mr. Bendy and I will participate in our bond rating call tomorrow. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Third Supplement to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

#### 9. Consider Resolution Authorizing Excess Levy Appeal based on Transportation Costs

Mr. Winchell explained that the School Corporation has a max levy that we are allowed to tax. In order to get any additional tax revenue over that levy amount, we have to petition the DLGF and prove that we had at least a 10% increase in our transportation expenses. We are filing one levy appeal, but it is broken into two scenarios. The first scenario is a levy appeal based on transportation costs. We are asking for approximately \$650,000 in increased levy due to transportation costs. The second scenario an appeal based on the bus replacement plan change which reflects the addition of eight buses to our bus replacement plan. The resolution we are recommending covers both scenarios. There has been a substantial cost to the Corporation as we have gone through the Greene Township Annexation process which resulted in the spending down of some cash balance. While we never want to spend down our savings, we knew that we would be shouldering transportation expenses that were not getting reimbursed by tax levy. Since 2019, we have been very deliberate to build up some cash balance and pilot transportation services in Greene Township and then grow them over time. Once the annexation was fully approved, we transitioned to door-to-door transportation. If you look at 2019 through December of 2024, any and all transportation service costs were shouldered by the School Corporation. We have been very deliberate about this because we wanted to see growth in our assessed value (AV) and we were hopeful we would see additional growth in our AV from the annexation of Greene Township. Now that all of this

growth is coming together, we have, again, been very deliberate in our timing of not only asking the Board for approval of our 2025 Budget, but also approval of this Excess Levy Appeal. Our new AV is now \$906,000,000 which is a 54.5% increase. That is a combination of 15% collective growth on legacy John Glenn boundaries plus approximately \$230,000,000 in Greene Township. We have deliberately been waiting to see what this AV would be because tax rates area function of AV composed with the amount we ask for. We are confident if the whole budget is approved with the bond that was just approved with the whole levy, we will remain tax neutral or even decrease the tax rate slightly. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Excess Levy Appeal based on Transportation Costs and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

#### 10. Consider Resolution Authorizing Excess Level Appeal based on Bus Replacement Plan

Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Excess Level Appeal based on Bus Replacement Plan and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

### REPORTS

#### 1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We have reached a tentative agreement with the John Glenn Education Association. We all understand that the State builds a two year budget. The first year of the last budget, they gave a lot of money to schools, around 6% increase and then for year two, it was closer to 1-1.5% increase. The JGEA plans to hold a ratification meeting on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. As long as they ratify on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, I suggest to the board that we hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. We are required by State Statute to hold a public hearing on the tentative agreement, after the teachers ratify it. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will then consider approval of the contract.
- We met with the Building Corporation Board tonight at 6pm. Everything has been approved for the bond and the bond sale can now be set. We have a meeting with Barton Coe Vilamaa next week to continue putting the finishing touches on what will go out to bid.
- Tonight is the first night of parent-teacher conferences which means fall break is also this week.
- The band was so close to qualifying for the next round of competition but fell just short. They will participate in the Bands of America Competition this weekend.
- Sectionals for Volleyball take place on Thursday and we will host Senior Night for football on Friday. First round of football sectionals are next week. Cross Country will have Sectionals this Saturday.
- With the official approval of the 2025 Budget tonight, as well as the approval of the Excess Levy Appeals we will get all of this information submitted to the DLGF this week.
- The Baseball and Softball Lighting project has officially started. By the end of the week, all new light poles will be installed. The electricians will follow next week to get everything wired. We hope to hold a dedication at the baseball field in the spring.
- There is an Executive Session following tonight's meeting.

### BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 15 & 16

Fall Break – October 18 & 21, 2024

NEXT MEETING DATE:      Public Hearing – October 29, 2024 – 7pm – John Glenn Admin Bldg.  
   November 5, 2024    7:00 P.M.      North Liberty Elementary School

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jared Egger called the meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session following the regular session to discuss collective bargaining, pending litigation and the job performance of an individual employee. No additional topics were discussed. The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

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

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

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