

**STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100**  
**Stark, Knox, Marshall, Henry & Peoria Counties, Illinois**

**Regular Meeting – November 21, 2022**

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, November 21, 2022, at the Stark County Elementary School. Members present were Matthew Nagode, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, David Steward, and Bruce West. Brian Rewerts and Emily Holman were absent. Also present were Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Jenna Bibb, Elementary Principal; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mike McGovern, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal; Mike Bunch, IT; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Lynne Paxson, teacher representative; Kara Dauck, Brandi Helms, Kylie Schaub, and Lisa Winans, Preschool teachers and aides; citizens and students of the district; and a member of the press.

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by President, Mrs. Orwig, at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Mission and Vision statements were recited.

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the October 17, 2022, minutes;
- Approval of the October Elementary Activity Funds, October JH/HS Activity Funds, October Self-Insurance Fund, and October Imprest Fund;
- Approval of the October LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$655.08, Stark County CUSD #100 \$200.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$141,007.37, Guardian \$341.92, Guardian \$2,998.16, Guardian \$518.92, Guardian \$425.57, James Unland & Co., Inc. \$226.00, Marilyn Ely \$209.95, Sharon Kuntz \$143.00, State Bank of Toulon \$2,000,000.00, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$167,538.64, Office of the State Fire Marshall \$100.00, Office of the State Fire Marshall \$260.00, Mary Meaker \$225.00, Scott Paxson \$3,000.00, VISA \$75.00, VISA \$430.45, VISA \$2,018.00, BIST/ Cornerstone of Care \$5,000.00, Imprest Fund \$5,418.70.

Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

There were no questions regarding the November bills. Motion was made by Mr. Steward, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the November bills of \$1,387,649.90. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Next Mr. Elliott presented Pride and Excellence Recognition. Congratulations to Mrs. Helms, Mrs. Dauck, Mrs. Winans, and Miss Schaub for their Gold Circle of Quality recognition for our preschool program. This rating is based on this year's Illinois State Board of Education monitoring visit, recognizing excellence in our early childhood program. We know you are excellent, and we love that the Illinois State Board of Education knows it too.

Mr. Elliott also presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to the Stark County Board of Education. We want to take this opportunity to celebrate our Board of Education members. This can be a thankless job at times, yet you continue to give us your time, energy, passion, and commitment for the success and growth of our school district. We have accomplished many great things in the past two and a half years together. We truly appreciate each of the Board of Education members and thank them for their service. Mr. Elliott presented each board member: President Ann Orwig, Vice President Bruce West, Secretary Matthew Nagode, and members Dave Steward, Erin Price, Brian Rewerts (absent), and Emily Holman (absent).

**Visitor Comments:**

There were no visitor comments.

Mrs. Orwig announced that Thanksgiving cards from the board to the staff had been distributed that day.

**Committee Reports:**

No reports, the meeting proceeded.

**Stark County Education Foundation Report:**

No report, the meeting proceeded.

**Administrative Reports:**

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Jenna Bibb, shared that benchmarking is coming up this month so she will have updates of the current school improvement goals coming soon. Our new third grade team spent time this month with Mrs. Kunkel, our Title I teacher, creating vertical cohesion for our ELA curriculum resources. Four of our teachers (new teachers and teachers at new grade levels) spent time with Marisa Romanelli from BHS ROE working on math planning, instruction, and assessment. We are well into teacher evaluation season, with 17 out of 25 formal observations completed and 7 out of 16 informal observations completed. PLC teams have been meeting in November designing, implementing, and evaluating common assessments, incorporating data conversations. Our fine arts and physical education teams are meeting in K-12 groups. Mrs. Helms and Mrs. Dauck attended "Putting Trauma Informed Practice into Practice" through Starnet. Mrs. Hamilton attended the annual Skyward Conference. Dara Carr from BHS ROE and Mrs. Bibb participated at a panel at the Triple I conference entitled "Supported Leadership Practices & Sustained Student Learning". Teachers had the opportunity to work in small groups with our BIST trainer, Judith, to solidify classroom practices. Our Veteran's Day Program was back in person this year, with a full house and large after program cookies crowd. We are looking forward to our Christmas Programs coming up on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We had approximately 90% of families represented at October Parent-Teacher Conferences. Teachers connected with other families via phone, Seesaw, or information sent home. There were no questions regarding Mrs. Bibb's principal's report.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Ms. McGann, shared that our first Stark County College and Career Fair was a huge success hosting over 30 vendors including colleges, trade schools, military branches, and career fields. It was attended by all high school students and staff, who provided great feedback to our counseling department. ICC has already had a follow up visit and there are more follow up visits coming. PLCs continue to meet, discuss, and set goals for three week increments with weekly checks in at Grade Level and Subject Area PLC meetings. Teams have targeted Attendance/Discipline during Pride Time and continued to analyze STAR/IAR/SAT data to guide instruction within academic core areas. We held an All School Veterans Day celebration in recognition of our local Stark County Veterans, welcoming Sam Rice, Jerica Chatman, Shawn Martin, and the Richwoods MCJROTC. The Junior High girls' basketball team finished first in their regular season Lincoln Trail Conference and third in the LTC Tournament. The Student vs. Staff Dodgeball Game was held for our Quarter 1 celebration for both High School and Junior High students that met the set attendance/discipline criteria. 87% of High School students and 92% of Junior High students attended the celebration, along with several staff members.

Mr. Nagode first stated that the High School did a good job with the College and Career Fair. He then asked for more information regarding the FAFSA, if it is now required for all students whether or not they plan to attend college. Ms. McGann confirmed that, yes, even if the student does not plan to attend college there is still a form that they are required to fill out through FAFSA. At this time approximately 50% of the High School Seniors have completed their FAFSA, but they are all aware of the requirement. The holdup seems to be that students need information from their parents in order to proceed. FAFSA Aide Representatives plan to have tables set up at home basketball games so that students and parents can ask questions.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott provided an update. Since our last board meeting, we have had numerous events and celebrations: Stark County Elementary School Red Ribbon week including an anti-drug campaign, spirit week, and celebrations; fall festivals, parties, and costume days at both campuses; Stark County High School College and Career Fair with 32 vendors including colleges, universities, trades, military, and local business opportunities; Stark County Football returned to the IHSA playoffs; 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball finished undefeated in the Lincoln Trail Conference; FFA attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis where over 66,000 students were in attendance; select high school students attended the College and Career Fair in Kewanee; we hosted the Stark County Education Foundation Trivia Night, which was a huge success, special thanks to all of the participants and volunteers; Mr. Elliott and some staff attended the Illinois State University Job Fair to recruit future teachers to Stark County CUSD #100; we held our annual RIF Joint Committee Meeting; we have upgraded our landscaping along our solar grid at the Elementary School and outside of the Unit Office; we have coordinated a celebration of our Weight Room/Athletics Fundraiser donors for December 2, 2022; we inducted Mr. Glenn Beall into the Stark County Alumni Hall of Fame; we had our next round of BIST implementation at both campuses to further support our students and staff in regards to student behavior; we kicked off the winter athletic season with our Annual Red and White scrimmages for boys' and girls' basketball; we continue to see an increase in participants in our athletics and extra-curricular activities; we participated in the Wyoming Moonlight Madness

Parade to continue to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; we are scheduled to complete the third floor carpet installation over Thanksgiving break in all classrooms and hallway, we will continue the second floor installation in December; new LED signage has been ordered for the athletic complex and new gym mats with logos have been installed at both main gyms; construction at the high school continues with anticipation of completion by January 4, 2023 excluding a few punch list items. All of these purposeful events positively contribute to our positive culture and culture shift here at Stark County CUSD #100 creating the Ultimate Learning and Working Environment for our students and staff.

Mr. Elliott then provided a budget update, stating that we are right on track with prior years.

Mrs. Price added that she has heard several students commenting on the new flooring and new high school with a sense of pride in their school. Mrs. Orwig mentioned that she took a walk through the Junior High and High School today when delivering the Thanksgiving cards, and that the new carpet gives the JH classrooms a warm, new, clean feeling and even makes the rooms appear bigger.

No questions were stated regarding the Administrators Report.

**Unfinished Business:**

Superintendent Elliott, Mrs. Bibb and Ms. McGann provided an overview of the 2022 State School Report Card that included a presentation of key data points and a rating of "Commendable" for all three schools. To be in the next category up, would be the top 10% in the state, below 67% in the state to be in the next lower category. Stark County continued to test through the pandemic. One item that was noted was the 16% Chronic Absentees rate, this issue is already being addressed with a new Truancy Officer who is trying to get students back on track for attendance. Mrs. Bibb stated that there is a lot of data on the School Report Card and she pulled just a few items to look at. Science scores are up. There is only a small gap between Low Income students and Non Low Income students, which is right on track with our teach all students strategy. Third grade ELA and math scores are slowly declining so that is an item she plans to look at and grow from. Ms. McGann agreed that there is a lot of data on the School Report Card, she pulled a few items to look at that are related to current SIP goals. At the Junior High there have been a lot of changes but she feels they are moving in the right direction. One of the areas they are focusing on is providing a supporting environment for students, recently they have hosted a college and career day for High School students and they have brought more focus on teachers helping the students in the Junior High. Another focus area has been attendance. At the High School, there has been a lot of conversation around math and how the last 3 years of the pandemic has effected Algebra readiness. The High School teachers are working on their SIP goals by owning our learning. Mr. Elliott commented that he is proud of the principals' level of involvement and understanding of the State School Report Card. They are able to look at the Report Card to see how we are doing and where to focus on improvement.

Mr. Nagode asked if they are using these gaps in data to lead to changes (i.e. third  
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grade). Mrs. Bibb answered that for third grade they have already been focusing on these areas and she is hoping that these numbers will motivate teachers to continue to work hard in these areas. The younger kids seem to be more impacted by the COVID years. Ms. McGann agreed that the COVID years have definitely caused some of these gaps in data, with a majority of COVID Junior High students now not ready for High School math. In response to this, Ms. Jacobs plans to take over both sixth and seventh grade math, and all Junior High teachers have begun to teach the same math curriculum. There is also discussion of offering Pre-Algebra or double block Algebra classes in the High School. In conclusion, yes, we are shifting what we are offering based on the State School Report Card data. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the School Report Card, Mr. West seconded. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

The Five Essentials Survey is available for students and parents to complete.

**New Business:**

Annual presentation of the Preliminary Tax Levy: Per the County Clerk, we have been given an estimated 4.5-4.8% increase in our EAV. We will solidify our numbers as we get closer to the final tax levy. This levy represents past practice and is currently under the 5% increase criteria, so it does not require a Truth in Taxation hearing. Due to past practice, we will still schedule a Truth in Taxation hearing for December. There is also a new requirement to publicly share fund balances during levy processes. Mr. West made a motion to approve the preliminary Tax Levy, accept the fund balances, and to set a Truth in Taxation hearing to be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Price and approved by a 5-0 vote.

Ms. McGann presented the adjustments in grade level classifications based on course credit moving forward. We have adjusted each year (2023 graduation through 2026 graduation) with the end result of 24 credits required for senior classification in the 2026 graduation year. Motion was made by Mrs. Orwig to approve the grade level classifications as presented, seconded by Mr. Steward. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott presented the two bids received for the painting of the high school gym and athletic complex gym. He recommended awarding one gym per company for efficiency, timing, and cost reasons. Mr. Steward made a motion to award the painting bids as suggested by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Nagode. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote. Turnbull Precision painting was awarded the Athletic Complex at \$11,720; JCC Service was awarded the high school gym and ceiling at \$31,542.

Press Issue 110 was released with policy, administrative procedure, and exhibit updates for board approval. Mr. Elliott noted that there were not any major changes. The Ed Policy Committee will meet to look at the changes in more detail. No action taken.

Superintendent Elliott stated that his team has been researching snow plow trucks and is asking for authorization to purchase a four-wheel drive snow plow truck with an expenditure range of \$25,000 - \$40,000 plus tax. Mr. Steward commented that two trucks may be needed and he recommended spending \$40,000 - \$50,000 total for two

trucks. Mr. Elliott stated that there are reserve funds available and that they have leads on six snow plow trucks to look at. Mr. Steward mentioned that he could possibly still help plow snow, if he was in town. Mr. West stated that two trucks makes sense to him, especially in case one of them breaks down. Mrs. Orwig also agreed that two trucks makes sense because there are two campuses. Mr. Nagode asked if the prior subcontractor ever put down salt when they plowed, they did not. Mrs. Orwig asked if a higher budget of \$60,000 was needed. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve Mr. Elliott to purchase two snow plow trucks for a total purchase price of \$25,000 - \$60,000. Mr. Steward seconded. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

Truth in Taxation Hearing; Approval of Final Tax Levy; approval of PRESS policies; Possible Award of Junior High Parking Lot Bid; Discussion and Process of Superintendent Evaluation.

**Executive Session:**

Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mr. West, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee performance, resignations, and hiring at 6:57 p.m. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 17, 2022, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to hold the following reviewed Executive Session Minutes, Not for Release: October 18, 2021; November 15, 2021; December 20, 2021 7:13 pm and 7:30 pm; January 18, 2022; February 22, 2022; March 21, 2022; April 18, 2022; May 16, 2022; June 20, 2022; July 18, 2022; July 27, 2022; August 15, 2022; September 19, 2022. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Tyler Jones, SCJH Physical Education Teacher effective October 24, 2022.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Joy Robertson, Toulon kitchen staff, effective November 4, 2022.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to approve Joy Robertson as special education bus aide for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve Katie Allen as SCJSH Band/Choir/Spanish teacher for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year with a start date of January 4, 2023. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

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Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Chad Acree, Junior High PE teacher starting January 4, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Steward. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Jenny Acree, Junior High Social Studies/ELA teacher starting January 4, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to approve Seth King as a long term substitute teacher for the 2022-23 school year. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve Jim Langdon as varsity boys' basketball volunteer assistant coach for the 2022-23 school year. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Sarah Abbott (Steighorst), SCJSH clerical and coach effective December 16, 2022.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Jerica Chatman as High School varsity assistant girls' basketball coach for the 2022-23 season. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Vicki Nowlan as Junior High Football and Basketball Cheerleading Coach effective at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve Kyli Whittle for an eight-week maternity leave beginning approximately February 24, 2023 through April 19, 2023. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Ann Orwig  
President

Matt Nagode  
Secretary

Approved 12/19/2022