

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

Regular Meeting – August 21, 2023

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, August 21, 2023, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Emily Leezer, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Joseph Rediger, Brian Rewerts, Dane Richards, and Bruce West. No members were absent. Also present were Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Jenna Bibb, Elementary Principal; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Mike Bunch, IT; members of the community, 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. Rediger, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the July 17, 2023 board minutes and July 31, 2023 Committee Meeting minutes;
- Approval of the July Self-Insurance Fund and July Imprest Fund;
- Approval of the July LEA checks as follows: Gerber Life Insurance Company \$4,307.50, James Unland & Company, Inc. \$ 13,660.00, James Unland & Company, Inc. \$89,215.00, Accident Fund Ins. Co. of America \$45,615.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$118,396.38, Guardian \$331.70, Guardian \$2,896.72, Guardian \$528.31, Guardian \$398.87, City of Wyoming \$389.33, State Bank of Toulon \$3,300,000.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$116,247.51, VISA \$431.40, VISA \$206.44, VISA \$571.86, VISA \$1,270.19, Amazon Capital Services \$3,640.07, United States Treasury \$365.49, Imprest Fund \$1,895.25.

Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of August bills. Mrs. Orwig asked if the payment to IASA on page 2, was for the second year. Mr. Elliott confirmed that it was. Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the August bills of \$407,803.37. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

President Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to the Bass Fishing Fundraising Committee. The inception of the 2023 SCHS Bass Fishing Team could not have been possible without the support of our community. A group of parents and community members led a fundraising effort which resulted in \$15,000 towards the program. The funds will go towards all things Bass Fishing, including the purchase of a bass boat, insurance, upkeep and more. This was a total team effort with many community members participating in fundraising, mailing letters, recruiting coaches, boat usage and more. Organization of all efforts was led by Janelle Down. These efforts led to the hiring of Coach Colby Wall; boat usage provided by Bill McNutt, and practice facilities provided by Andy McGava and Michelle at the Cozy Ranch. There are many

other parents and community members, too many to mention by name, that contributed to this successful effort. A special thanks to Dustin Down for also leading this effort with support from Robyn and Lance Gentle. Athletic Director, Roland Brown, is also commended for working with this group and the IHSA to make SC Bass Fishing a reality. On behalf of the board, administration, and SC athletics, Mrs. Orwig thanked everyone for all that they do as well as thanked the following donors: Quality Cable, Jamie's Crew 22, Bob's Concrete, Douglas and Pamela Miller, Rumbold and Kuhn, Borden Law, Blake D. Quart, Pelz Agency, Leezer Agency, Fleming Door Co. (in memory of Mary Schierer), Morrissey Refrigeration, FMC Corp., State Bank of Toulon, A Few of My Favorite Things, Kristin Knobloch, Stark County Booster Club, Donald W. Down, Dustin and Janelle Down, Wiley Park Productions (Back Road Music Festival), and Sam and Mary McCauley (in memory of Jim McCauley).

Mrs. Down added that even individuals outside of our community stepped up to help our students, specifically Bill McNutt, who provided both boat usage and a location to fish. Mrs. Gentle handed the board an envelope containing \$751 that was collected as tips at the Back Road Music Festival, the servers chose SC Bass Fishing as the recipient of their donation this year.

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments.

Annual Insurance Committee Report:

Vice President West provided an update from the Annual Insurance Committee Meeting. The Wyman Group presented an update on our current Self-Funded Health Insurance plan. The teachers' union was present at the meeting and expressed concerns regarding the current insurance plan and services. Another insurance agent presented some possible other options. Aflac presented insurance options that we are thinking about moving forward with. The Insurance Committee recommends that we remain with The Wyman Group/Consociate for FY24 with a 5% rate increase on our Self-Funded Plan. Mr. Elliott will share more later in the meeting regarding insurance rates.

Henry Stark Governing Board Report:

President Orwig shared an overview of the August Henry Stark Governing Board Quarterly meeting. This was their annual budget meeting. Their budget includes over \$10 million and if they can fill all of the open positions, they will spend approximately \$9.8 million. Henry Stark bills Stark County for the services they plan to provide, that bill has increased this year. If not all positions are filled within our district, some of that money will be refunded at the end of the year. The Henry Stark Governing Board also approved several new personnel at the meeting.

Administrative Report:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that they had a great first five days of school. Preschool enrollment numbers are up this year and are getting close to the 55 student cap. Third grade had the most new students move in district this year, this is also the grade that we switched from two to three teachers for the year. She welcomed the new SCES staff members: Mrs. Lisa Snyder – Preschool paraprofessional, Ms. Barb Swope – Physical Education Teacher, Dr. Wally Parks –

Music Teacher, Mrs. Aili Leathers – Speech-Language Pathologist, Miss Lexi Davis – BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team) aide and Kids Care Supervisor, and Mrs. Sarah Barnes – Cook. Meet the Teacher Night and PreSchool Orientation were both well attended. Parent Partnership Night will be Tuesday, August 29th.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared their Smart Goals for the year. She welcomed new staff members: Jenna Clayes – Para, Erin Hardigan – Social Worker, Seth King – Junior High Social Studies and High School Electives Teacher, Emma Miller – Para, Preston Parrish – Junior High and High School Ag Teacher, Stefani Schwickerath – Para, Lori Wineland – ELA Teacher. The new staff ranges from brand new to 20 plus years of experience. We hosted a successful 6th Grade and Freshman Orientation. We hosted a Back to School Open House to allow families an opportunity to meet their child's teacher, tour the building, and obtain course syllabi. Homecoming is set for September and details are already being released. We have received great feedback on our new daily announcements process, using the platform s'more. The SC News class will take on this platform in addition to their weekly videos. Athletic Director, Roland Brown, coordinated a great Meet the Rebels Night for our fall sports with recognition for all fall sports athletes and band members at the Annual Soda Game on Friday night. We are currently hosting four foreign exchange students, two from Spain, one from France, and one from Italy. We are excited to have them at SC this year!

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott, agreed with Mrs. Bibb and Ms. McGann, that the school year has started off strong and with high energy. We kicked off the year with our Annual All Staff Breakfast, celebrations, and building level professional development. We hosted various student-centered activities including 6th Grade, Freshman, and New Student Orientations, Elementary Picnic and Meet the Teacher Nights, SCJSHS Open House and more. Fall athletics are well under way. Our athletics kicked off with our Annual Soda Game (Football); this year we added a volleyball scrimmage and all fall sports and band introductions. Some facilities updates that have taken place since our last meeting include the junior high roof project starting, the elementary parking lots have been resealed and repaired, a new LED sign is in production for SCES. The buildings were ready for staff and students to return for the first day of school thanks to the extra efforts of Bob Bohm and his custodial team. Mr. Bohm and team not only completed their summer task list, they added extra items to it and completed those as well. A reminder that due to all-staff training scheduled for Thursday, August 31st and Friday, September 1st, there will be no school for students, providing a 5-day Labor Day weekend before returning to our regular schedule on Tuesday, September 5th. Our 2023-24 charge is "Can't Stop, Won't Stop." There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented an update from the Annual Insurance Committee meeting on August 11, 2023. Presentations from The Wyman Group, AFLAC, and Acrisure provided renewal numbers for our current health insurance plan, supplemental insurance options that could be offered for employees at their cost, and future options for health insurance coverage. The recommendation of the committee is to remain with our self-funded plan through the Wyman Group and Consociate at a rate increase of 5%.

The Wyman Group proposed a 10% rate increase, but after further discussion, we settled on a 5% increase for our employees. Next year we plan to have our Annual Insurance Committee meeting earlier in the year, possibly April or May. This will allow time for further research and the ability to make changes before renewal. Mr. West made a motion to approve the health insurance renewal rate including a 5% increase and to continue working with The Wyman Group and Consociate for FY24. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Scott Burge from Farnsworth presented a variety of potential new gym options, pricing and renderings for board consideration. Pricing ranged from \$2.6 million to \$6.3 million and included seating from 1000 up to 1500. The court would be the same standard IHSA size, but the new gym would have more room on the sidelines. The new gym would be located at the Toulon campus between the high school and library. No action taken.

Austin Burklund from Byrne and Jones Sports Construction presented a variety of All-Weather track options, pricing and locations for board consideration. Options for installation in Wyoming and Toulon were presented with costs ranging from \$1.1 million up to \$2.2 million. No action taken.

John Vezzetti from Bernardi Securities presented the options for the board to access up to \$6 million in working cash bonds to go towards the potential new gym and all-weather track projects. This requires a three-month cycle of board resolutions with funds becoming available shortly after the third resolution is approved. Mr. Vezzetti also provided a sample tax rate increase. No action taken.

The board briefly discussed the new gym, all weather track, and bond presentations. They decided to table the discussion for now and continue the discussion at a Building and Finance Committee meeting on September 7th at 5:30 pm.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott provided an overview of the FY24 Budget. He explained that the budget is higher than what is actually expected to be spent, but that this allows funds to be available in case of an emergency. When budgeted expenses are not spent, they remain in the fund balances to be used in future years. Mr. West made a motion to approve the the FY24 Tentative Budget as presented and to place the budget on display for the next 30 days and hold a public hearing and approval on September 25, 2023. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Teacher Association and the Board of Education to add a stipend schedule for the SC News Sponsor and a Teacher Mentor Stipend for the new Teacher Mentor Pilot Program created by the SC Guiding Coalition. Mr. Rewerts asked if the MOU was something that the union asked for. Mr. Elliott explained that the union asked for the SC News Stipend and that the Teacher Mentor Stipend was a joint discussion brought up during Guiding Coalition work. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Teacher Association and Board of Education as presented. Mrs. Price seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the 2023-24 Extracurricular Code with no changes from the prior year. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Extracurricular Code as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Passed 7-0.

Superintendent Elliott provided an overview of a collaborative effort between local school districts, Office of Emergency Management, and the Regional Office of Education creating a reunification site and plan in the event of a major school crisis. No action taken.

The next item on the agenda is an annual approval to allow the superintendent to let fuel bids for FY24. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the superintendent to let fuel bids for FY24. Mr. West seconded. Passed 7-0.

Superintendent Elliott presented multiple options for dates for graduation, promotion and early release of students. The board discussed all options and the pros and cons of each. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve Option #1, graduation on May 12, 2024 (Mother's Day), 8th Grade Promotion on May 15, 2024 and Senior Class last day of school on May 8, 2024. Mrs. Leezer seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented a recommendation to add IHSA E-Sports Activity for the 2023-24 school year. Ms. DeBolt brought this to our attention last year and is willing to coach/sponsor the activity. E-Sports is video game competition, students can log in at home or school and use a game code to participate in the competitions. Ms. McGann added that IHSA has an approved set of games, it is not just any video game. The board asked what the stipend would be for this position. Mr. Elliott responded that the plan is to wait until after the first year to decide on a stipend, so that they have a better idea of what is all involved. There is potential for an MOU to add the stipend next year. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve IHSA E-Sports Activity for the 2023-24 school year as presented. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Items for Next Meeting:

Public Hearing and Approval of the FY24 Budget; Possible Audit Report; Possible Resolution for Working Cash Bonds; Possible approval to let bids for new gym; Award fuel bid.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Price, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, non-renewals, employee performance, employment and resignations at 7:30 p.m. Motion was approved 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 17, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Taylor Wilkinson as Junior Class Sponsor and Senior Class Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded and motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve Angie Roark as Choir Accompanist for the 2023-24 school year. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Ann Knoblauch as Assistant Cook for the 2023-24 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig to approve Cassy Melton as SCAC Supervisor for the 2023-24 school year. Passed 7-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Sandra Carter as SCJSHS Nurse for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion passed 6-1 with Mrs. Price voting no.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Sam Grigg as Toulon Crossing Guard for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Jenny Acree as Junior High Student Council Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Christina Grusy as High School Principal Secretary for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Price seconded. Passed 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Gayle Grundstrom as Sophomore Class Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded and motion passed 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve Brittany Venzon as Sophomore Class Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Passed 7-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Dusty Browning as Freshman Class Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Payton Letko as part-time clerical and long-term substitute teacher for the 2023-24 school year, pending paperwork. Mrs. Price seconded and motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Kane Mastin as Sophomore Class Sponsor.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Jerrica Chatman, Junior High Girls Basketball Coach.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Kyli Whittle, Junior High Science teacher, effective December 19, 2023.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Jackie Colgan as Spring Musical Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve the following lunch supervisors for SCJSH for the 2023-24 school year: Dusty Browning, Jade Noard, Clint Terwilliger, Jim Langdon, Trey Swanson, and Seth King. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Orwig and passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the following morning supervisors as SCJH for the 2023-24 school year: Amy Wise, Dusty Browning, and Angela Tuthill. Motion was seconded by Mr. West and passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the following Fall Volunteer Coaches for the 2023-24 school year: Bruce West & Lauren West for Junior High Softball, Joe Charvat for High School Football, Tyler Brown for High School Volleyball, and Rob Finney for High School Golf. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Mr. West abstained. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Rewerts, to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Motion was approved 7-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 9/25/2023