

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

Regular Meeting – September 25, 2023

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, September 25, 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; Mike McGovern, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Mike Bunch, IT; members of the community including some local boy scouts, 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.

Mrs. Orwig opened a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. Superintendent Elliott presented a few changes from the tentative budget that was presented in August based on feedback from the auditor. He stated that additional expenditures were added for salaries at each campus, maintenance, high school clerical, potential gym and track projects, and transportation. These adjustments provide additional funds for emergency situations throughout the year to best budget for the new year. As previously discussed, the extra amount budgeted does not mean that it will all be spent, any budgeted amounts that are not spent will remain in their respective funds. The new projected end of Fiscal Year 2024 balance is a total in all nine funds of \$11,913,600. Mr. Elliott added that our reserves are healthy. Seeing no questions from the board or the public, President Orwig closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar included:

- Approval of the August 21, 2023 board minutes;
- Approval of the July/August Elementary Activity Funds, July/August JH/HS Activity Funds, August Self-Insurance Fund, August Imprest Fund, June Revised (Post Audit) Treasurer's Report, July and August Treasurer's Reports;
- Approval of the August LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$479.37, Stark County CUSD #100 \$116,814.61, Guardian \$331.70, Guardian \$2,896.72, Guardian \$528.31, Guardian \$345.97, IESA \$40.00, Fast Signs \$3,946.81, Stark County CUSD #100 \$200.00, State Bank of Toulon \$500,000.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$129,669.83, Stark County CUSD #100 \$1,700.00, VISA \$230.98, VISA \$238.92, VISA \$1,137.30, Amazon Capital Services \$9,598.07, IL Department of Employment Security \$2,190.00, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, Ramsey Solutions \$599.80, Imprest Fund \$13,126.88.

Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of September bills. Mrs. Orwig asked if the payment to Hudl on page 3, was for the entire year. Mr. Elliott confirmed that it was and that was the amount due after the SC Athletic Boosters covered \$4,000 of the cost. Mrs. Orwig asked if the E-Rate expenditure is paid and then reimbursed. Mr. Elliott responded that is was and that we have almost exhausted all of our E-Rate expenditures for the year. Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the September bills of \$181,267.14. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Visitor Comments:

During visitor comments, three members of the community stepped forward to comment: Linda Dean, Sam Rice, and Leslie Bowser. Mrs. Orwig reminded everyone that the board does not make it a practice to respond to statements made by the public.

Linda Dean introduced herself as a 1976 Toulon High School graduate, she currently lives across the street from the high school. She is for the building of a new track but against building a new gymnasium. She feels that there are no more students than in past years and that a new gym is not necessary. Mrs. Dean asked if the public gets to vote on the building of the new gym. Mrs. Orwig responded that this is not an issue that is required to be taken to the public for a vote. Mrs. Dean expressed her concern that taxpayers do not have a say. Mrs. Orwig responded that taxpayers elect the board members which gives them authority to make these types of decisions. Mrs. Dean stated that she felt there was not a lot of information put out to the community. Mrs. Orwig responded that the board has notified the public in various ways including board meeting agendas and the superintendent's weekly parent message. Members of the community are always welcome to approach a board member with any concerns. Mrs. Dean ended her public comment stating that she will be upset if they proceed in building a gym that we do not need. Mrs. Orwig thanked her for her comments.

Sam Rice introduced himself as a 1967 graduate, a Central Illinois track official for over 15 years, and a volunteer who has been taking care of the Toulon track for 20 years using his own fuel and supplies. In 1980, IHSA made the change from measuring in yards to meters and nothing has been done to update our track for this change. Due to this, athletes are not able to record accurate practice times. Schools all around the area have improved their tracks and changed to all weather tracks. Schools with all weather tracks have seen an increase in student participation and pride. Stark County has not hosted home track meets for years and will never host with a cinder track. In his opinion, past administration has left out the track program. He looks forward to seeing what the new current administration will do, seeing the participation and pride in the track program grow (as well as cross country since they practice on the track), and hopes this will lead to more students making it to the state track meet. He would also like to see Stark County host its own meets in the future. A new track can only make Stark County track and field better. Mr. Rice concluded his comment by thanking the board. Mrs. Orwig thanked him for his comments.

Leslie Bowser introduced herself as a member of the Stark County class of 1996. She got to watch the "Vote No" signs on the side of barns and the conflict between Toulon and Wyoming during the consolidation. In her opinion, the new gym and new track projects should have already been done but due to people in the community digging in

their heels these projects have not been completed. She knows that there are people in the community mad about the new high school building, but in her opinion, it should have been built a long time ago as well. She feels that the public should have been mad about all of the years and money wasted putting band-aids on the old buildings. She is proud of Stark County and moved back to the area to raise her kids here. Her kids have friends from both Wyoming and Toulon, the divide is no longer there. She feels that the current board is not afraid to look forward, and that if we hadn't built the new school then our school may not have existed going forward. Our tax rates may have been lower here than in surrounding communities, but our buildings and facilities showed it. When she picks up her kids from practices the athletic complex, it is like a revolving door of students, and the junior high students are getting home late at night due to not being able to practice earlier due to a gym not being available. The junior high gym can't hold 60 students or hold a practice. When we host our track meets at Galva, money from admission and concessions that should be coming to Stark County is going to Galva instead. She concluded stating that she feels the current board is doing great. Mrs. Orwig thanked Mrs. Bowser for her comments.

Seeing no other visitor comments, Mrs. Orwig concluded the visitor comments by recommending that the public stay for unfinished business.

Building/Finance Committee Report:

Vice President West provided an update on the September 7th Building/Finance Committee meeting. The committee discussed pursuing working cash bonds up to \$6 million for the potential new gym and track projects. They discussed the input that they had received from the public, both positive and negative. There were no questions for Mr. West.

Stark County Education Foundation Report:

Mr. Elliott provided an update from the Stark County Education Foundation's September meeting. They had a successful 2023 Golf Outing fundraiser, are working on planning for the upcoming 2024 Scholarship Committee, Fall Trivia Night, and Family Meal Nights (which will take place at selected basketball games). They had a shift in officers with new Treasurer and Secretary. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) introduced class goal-tracking processes at our first PLC meeting. Classroom goals will be aligned with our SIP goals. Dara Carr, from the BHS ROE, facilitated two PLC sessions. Our BIST Vision Team has been leading the work to implement BIST processes at SCES. We are continuing to learn, implement, and fine-tune our processes to help all students master the three BIST "Goals for Life". Part of the BIST process includes identifying that the child is not just behaving badly, they are missing a skill. We held our full evacuation drill, fire drill, lockdown drill, and bus evacuation drills. All went smoothly and we received favorable feedback from participants and first responders. Thank you to Bebe Groter and Elmira Presbyterian Church for donating funds to support our teachers. Our health staff, along with staff from the ROE, have completed the annual vision and hearing screenings. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that our new staff members Cara Ferneti (paraprofessional), Christie Grusy (HS Secretary), and Payton Letko (HS Social Studies, Apex, Activities Secretary) are #AllIn. We completed Fall Benchmark STAR Testing for 6th-12th grade students in both ELA and Math. Seniors were only required to complete the STAR Assessment if they are enrolled in a SC ELA or SC Math course. These assessments are used to track student progress and growth throughout the year. Our PLCs are off to a strong start, with our ILT leading structured, intentional PLCs that are data driven and focus on teaching and learning. Administration attended our ROE Principal's Meeting, MTSS Professional Development, and PTL 2.0 this month to continue building our understanding of our administrative needs. The timing of Homecoming 2023 has been perfect as we roll into October soon. Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Acree, Class Sponsors, and Student Council members had one of their best years yet! Homecoming Week activities included a JV Tailgate, Movie Night, Student v. Staff Spirit Section Battle, Skit Night, Parade, and Dance. All this in addition to all of our SC Athletic Events and pep assemblies. We are working with our Wayfinder representative to roll out our first benchmark survey to students to seek feedback on Quarter 1. This program is new this year at the request of our MTSS team. It will provide us detailed feedback on students' social emotional needs. SAGA held their first meeting at the high school. Attendance was low due to transportation needs and some initial concern about student judgment. SAGA sponsors are looking to offer a virtual option to help with confidentiality. We have over 20 students signed up for ESports and excitement is building for this new activity at the high school. There were no questions for Ms. McGann. Mrs. Orwig added that she agreed it was a very fun Homecoming Week.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott, continued with the Homecoming praises. Homecoming 2023 is one of our purposeful events that brings incredible energy to our entire community. We are so proud of all of the efforts of our student body, student council, staff, and administration for making this such an incredible week. The elementary students really enjoyed having the high school football athletes greet them on Friday morning. We also want to thank the entire community for their ongoing support. We held a Tax Workshop led by Bernardi Securities, with steady traffic from 5:30-7:00 pm. The estimated tax impact for bonding \$6 million is roughly a 2% increase. This was just one of our many efforts to keep the public informed about the possible upcoming gym and track projects. We have held 6 public meetings, posting those agendas to our website, weekly parent messages go out via phone call and are posted on Facebook. He also reminded everyone that the board of education is always available for the public to contact. We have applied for a state grant through Career Link that would place our SC News and Rebel Reporter classes as the foundation for developing a marketing campaign for our local manufacturers and trades, to expose all high school students to career opportunities right here in our community post-graduation. This would include designing commercials, infomercials, news articles, and a podcast. The grant will be submitted through Career Link in the coming week. We met with the Wyoming City Council for a potential partnership on an IDOT Safe Paths to School Grant that could provide \$250,000 for sidewalk upgrades in Wyoming. This would improve the sidewalks that lead to SCES. This project is currently in the hand of the City to proceed. We will also be working with the City to improve parking along Van Buren Street outside of the Athletic Complex. We appreciate our partnership with the City. Parent Teacher Conferences are Tuesday, October 17th and Thursday, October 19th from 4:00-7:00 pm

at both campuses. Friday, October 20th is our fall break with no school that day. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

Earlier in the meeting Superintendent Elliott presented a few changes to the tentative budget that was presented in August. The new projected end of Fiscal Year 2024 balance is a total of \$11,913,600 in all nine funds. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Final Budget as presented. Mrs. Price seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Superintendent Elliott reported that we only received one fuel bid. Ag View FS submitted a bid at \$3.316/gallon for gasoline and \$4.101/gallon for diesel with an additional sales tax in 2024 not included in the total. Mr. Elliott recommended approval of the bid. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to award the fuel bid to Ag View FS as presented for December 2023 – November 2024. Mr. Rewerts seconded. Passed 7-0.

Mrs. Orwig asked if there were any questions before she read the Resolution Authorizing Debt Certificates to not Exceed \$6,000,000, Series 2023 Bonds. The board discussed the need to have four resolutions, one every 30 days, before the bonds could be issued. The district is limited to \$5.5 million for Working Cash Bonds, so they are going with Debt Certificates instead. Mrs. Dean questioned what could be done to stop the bonds. Mrs. Orwig reminded her that this is a public meeting, not forum and that the board does not take questions from the public during their meeting. She also reminded her that as elected public officials, they have the authority to approve the bonds. The meeting continued with President Orwig reading the following resolution:

Resolution authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of purchasing real or personal property, or both, in and for the School District and for the issue of not to exceed \$6,000,000 Debt Certificates, Series 2023, of said School District evidencing the rights to payment under said Agreement, prescribing the details of the Agreement and Certificates, and providing for the security for and means of payment under said Agreement of said Certificates, authorizing the proposed sale of said Certificates to the purchaser thereof.

Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Orwig seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote from the Board of Education.

Following six public meetings including tonight, Superintendent Elliott recommended moving forward with a new all-weather track at the junior/senior high school campus through Byrne and Jones at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1.8 million. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the all-weather track project at the Toulon campus not to exceed \$1.8 million as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott recommended moving forward with the new gym project in order to begin planning and scheduling, not to exceed \$6.3 million. The board has several options to consider and will finalize the design, contractor, and budget over the next few months. The architect recommended board approval before continuing to provide more detailed renderings. Future meetings will include the approval of the contract or letting of

bids. Mr. West made a motion to approve the new high school gym project not to exceed \$6.3 million and pending the approval of \$6 million bonds, as presented. Mr. Richards seconded. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Richards left the board meeting due to a having a work meeting to attend.

Superintendent Elliott recommended pursuing the FY24 \$50,000 Matching Maintenance Grant to offset some of the cost of the new gym project. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the superintendent to submit a FY24 Matching Maintenance Grant through ISBE. Mrs. Price seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Due to an adjustment by the Lincoln Trail Conference assignor, the officials' rates for football have been adjusted to \$80 JV and \$100 Varsity. We had previously approved \$75/\$110. Mr. West made a motion to approve the football officials' rates adjustment as presented. Mr. Rediger seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott provided an overview of the FY23 Administrative and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report provided in the board packet. This is an annual presentation. No action taken.

Superintendent Elliott presented his annual superintendent goals as entered in the SuperEval platform for the 2023-24 evaluation process. He provided details for 3 major goals, action plans, and indicators for success that are linked to 8 subdomains of the state superintendent evaluation tool. Mr. Elliott asked the board to log in to the SuperEval platform and review the goals. Mrs. Price asked if data can be entered individually or if it is entered as a whole. Mrs. Orwig answered that each board member has their own log in and can add data throughout the year. No action taken.

Next on the agenda was the annual approval to let bids for snow removal, but due to the purchase of snow plow trucks this last year, we do not need to let bids for snow removal.

Mary Horsley, High School Secretary, has requested closing the Junior High Stark Smart activity account and transferring the remaining funds to Student Incentives. We no longer have a Stark Smart Sponsor. Mr. Rewerts asked how much would be transferred. After looking at the JH/HS Activity Fund Report, the balance to be transferred is \$74.08. Mr. West made a motion to approve closing the Junior High Stark Smart Activity account and transferring of funds as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Passed 6-0.

Superintendent Elliott shared that the National Skyward Annual Conference will be held in March of 2024. In our efforts to prepare for major Skyward changes with the Que system and to maximize our efficiency with our student information system, he recommends sending two clerical staff, one from each campus to the Florida conference at a cost up to \$5,500 for registration, travel, lodging, and food. Mr. Rediger made a motion to approve attendance at the 2024 National Skyward Conference in Florida for two clerical staff as presented at a cost not to exceed \$5,500. Mrs. Price seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott reported a steady enrollment with an increase of 9 students. This equates to a 2% increase over the past three years. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the 2023-24 6-Day Enrollment Report as presented. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Items for Next Meeting:

Possible FY23 Auditor Presentation; Possible Press Updates.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Price, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, performance, retirements, employment, and resignations at 7:25 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 21, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Bob Bohm as Junior High Girls Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Chad Acree as Junior High Girls Basketball Assistant Coach for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Ashton Morrissey as Junior High Girls Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Price seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to approve Kari Bush as SCHS Spring Musical Director for the 2023-24 school year. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Lori Wineland as SCHS Speech Coach for the 2023-24 school year pending student participation. Seconded by Mr. Rewerts and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig to approve Preston Parrish as Junior High/High School Scholastic Bowl Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Passed 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Jenny Acree as Assistant High School Student Council Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Rediger seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Kane Mastin as Assistant Junior High Football Coach for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Sandra Carter as Junior High Cheer Coach for the 2023-24 season. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Katina Hegwood as Freshman Class Sponsor and Assistant High School Student Council Sponsor.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Katie Allen, Band/Choir/Spanish teacher, effective September 29, 2023.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Jennifer Denton as Unit Office Clerical for the 2023-24 school year pending paperwork. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 10/16/2023