

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

**Regular Meeting – October 16, 2023**

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, October 16, 2023, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Emily Leezer, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Joseph Rediger, Dane Richards, and Bruce West. Brian Rewerts was absent. Also present were Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Jenna Bibb, Elementary Principal; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Cory Cowan, Auditor from Gorenz and Associates; Scott Burge, Architect from Farnsworth Group; Tim Erickson, CORE Construction; students and 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 Mrs. Price, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar included:

- Approval of the September 25, 2023 board minutes;
- Approval of the September Elementary Activity Funds, September JH/HS Activity Funds, September Self-Insurance Fund, September Imprest Fund, September Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the September LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$217.67, Stark County CUSD #100 \$137,143.33, Guardian \$350.41, Guardian \$3,096.96, Guardian \$589.58, Guardian \$429.52, Kreiling Roofing Company, Inc. \$34,036.58, Midland Golf Club \$1,500.00, Marilyn Ely \$149.50, Sharon Kunz \$143.00, Fast Signs \$4,845.60, Stark County CUSD #100 \$165,508.73, Angie Roark \$75.00, Marilyn Ely \$247.00, Sharon Kunz \$169.00, IHSEA Sports \$200.00, VISA \$96.89, VISA \$833.66, VISA \$2,002.64, Voyager Sopris Learning \$1,005.40, Amazon Capital Services \$4,762.20, Imprest Fund \$9,737.97.

Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of October bills. Mrs. Orwig asked if the payment to Kreiling Roofing was the final bill. Mr. Burge, the architect for the project, was in the crowd and responded that this was not the final bill. There are a few punch list items that are being wrapped up, but they are almost done. Mr. West asked if the check to Fitz Graphics was for the new boards at the football field. Mr. Elliott responded that it was. Motion was made by Mr. Rediger, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the October bills of \$208,297.85. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

**Pride and Excellence Recognition:**

President Orwig recognized the Stark County Junior/Senior High Student Council Executive Board for their incredible start to the school year after hosting the 2023 Homecoming, "Lights, Camera, Action!" The week was filled with many successful events and the board is so proud of their leadership. The student council has grown in

numbers while also combining efforts of both the junior and senior high under the collaborative efforts of both sponsors, Melissa Jackson and Jenny Acree. The members of the Student County Executive Board are Hailey Allen, Claire Bowser, Maeve Colgan, Emily Demetreon, Jimmy Langdon, Alexis Martinez, Hailey Peterson, and Lily Robinson. Ms. McGann spoke highly of these students and their efforts.

**Visitor Comments:**

There were no visitor comments.

**Building/Finance Committee Report:**

Vice President West provided an update from the Building/Finance Committee meeting that was held before tonight's board meeting. The meeting included presentations and discussions with Farnsworth Group and CORE Construction in regards to the gymnasium project. Both were able to answer some questions that the board had; they will both present again later in the meeting with action items to follow. There were no questions for Mr. West.

**Administrative Reports:**

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that all PLC groups have begun using the Cycles of Inquiry process to develop a grade-level goal with a process (instructional) and outcome (student achievement) goal. Our Rtl team is reviewing Tier 2 progress monitoring data and holding Tier 3 parent meetings. Mrs. Kunkel, Rtl teacher, has done a great job taking lead with these. Fifth grade Matthew and Michelle presentations by Hult Health Education Center took place on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Mrs. Wyant for arranging a Land of Smiles dental health assembly on October 9<sup>th</sup>. A huge thank you goes out to our local fire departments (including one of our board members, Mr. Rediger) for hosting Fire Safety Day on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate Red Ribbon Week the week of October 30<sup>th</sup> with a Costume Day and Fall Parties on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Parks and a team of teachers are planning a Veterans Day program on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Our annual Personal Body Safety lessons will be presented by Freedom House on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. These fulfill the required Erin's Law mandate. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, started her report by welcoming our new staff members: Dr. Wally Parks (Band/Choir), Mrs. Laurie Steger (Long Term Sub-Band/Choir), and Mr. Tim Wagner (Long Term Sub-Maternity Leave). We are honored that two of our past teachers have come back to assist with coverage this semester. We have completed our first benchmark of the year for STAR Testing (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). Our Rtl team completed their first round of Problem Solving meetings to create individualized support plans for our struggling learners. We met with Junior Achievement representation to discuss and plan for our implementation of JA collaboration this semester, more on that later in the meeting. Our PLC work continues to focus on identifying the root cause of student learning problems using the Cycles of Inquiry. ILT members are guiding their PLC teams through this work to assess our teaching and learning outcomes. We had a very successful Homecoming Week and are already looking forward to Winterfest. Another shout out and kudos to Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Acree, and their Student Council leaders for a smooth Homecoming Week. October is College Changes Everything Month. Our counseling team has a full month planned of school

opportunities for our students and staff. Our College/Career Fair will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00-12:00. We encourage our parents and board members to stop by and see this amazing event that our counseling team has developed. There will be over 50 vendors participating and all high school students are to attend. We will also host our first SC College/Career Legacy Panel on October 25<sup>th</sup> including 7 SC Alumni representing multiple careers and pathways. We look forward to hearing their stories and allowing them to engage with our upperclassmen about how HS graduation and SCHS impacted their future. Wayfinder is still a work in progress, but we are eager to use the data to guide intentional interventions and supports for our students. We will host two Senior nights this week including volleyball on Wednesday and football/band/cheer on Friday. Our FFA team spent last week in the STL area competing in soil judging, which is one of our most competitive teams. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott, noted that this week is Principal Appreciation Week. Round of applause for Mrs. Bibb, Ms. McGann, and Mr. McGovern. We are so proud of the efforts at both campuses with Homecoming and Happiness Week. These purposeful events help to strengthen our positive culture for all students and staff. We continue to connect with our community through the Stark Council for Continuous Improvement that will host three events for local businesses to learn more and join the Discover Peoria Marketing Campaign. These events will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at West Main Coffee, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Macon Construction in Bradford, and November 14<sup>th</sup> at Wyoming Paramount Theatre. We also continue to expand our reach with a Leadership, Goal Setting, and PHEARCE philosophy presentation at Bradley University. We hosted a Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic in collaboration with Henry-Stark Health Department and will also host a student/staff flu shot clinic through Princeville Pharmacy on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We are proud to have started our Snack360 program led by our FFA. Snack360 provides take home snacks for all students. We want to thank Ms. Wilkinson, Mr. Parrish, and the FFA students for their leadership and commitment to our community. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Annual State School Report cards will be released. A presentation to the board with official designations will be shared at our November board meeting. We have received preliminary designations of Commendable for all three schools. We want to remind our parents of our Annual Parent Teacher Conferences that will be held Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 pm at both campuses. There will be no school on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate fall break and the conclusion of a successful first quarter of the school year. Mr. Elliott closed with a budget update on expenditures through 25% of the fiscal year, reminding the board that bus leases and insurance are paid upfront resulting in more than 25% of the Transportation and Tort Funds being expended. These percentages will even out later in the year. Mrs. Price asked if there was a screening for kids in need for the Snack360 program. Ms. McGann and Mrs. Bibb responded that all students receive a bag of snacks so that there are no confidentiality issues, but that the teachers can reach out if necessary. There were no other questions for Mr. Elliott.

Mrs. Orwig added that the Blawkhawk Division meeting is on October 25<sup>th</sup> and the Stark County Board of Education will be recognized. She reminded the board members that they need to register in advance if they plan to attend.

**Unfinished Business:**

Cory Cowan from Gorenz and Associates presented an overview of the 2023 Financial Audit with no findings and compliments to Mary Streitmatter and Rebecca Lane for their attention to detail. Mr. Cowan's presentation included a packet for each board member, from which he pointed out specific details. Capital Projects decreased to almost zero this year due to the building project being wrapped up. One time projects and Education Fund spending led to an increase in cost per pupil. Next year it is expected that local monies will decrease. Due to ESSER, spending was higher this year and is expected to decrease next year. Overall there was a \$1.3 million surplus for Fiscal Year 2023. Real estate taxes account for almost half of all funding. Expenditures had a 30% increase but again that ties back to one time spending. When backing out the one time spending, expenditures only increased 10%. The year-end operating fund balance has increased with an estimated 15 months of funds on hand, which is good to have since the future is unknown. Mrs. Orwig thanked Mr. Cowan for his presentation and Mrs. Streitmatter and Mrs. Lane for the work they put in throughout the year and in collecting documentation for the audit.

Scott Burge from Farnsworth Group presented updated renderings and budgets for two options for the new gymnasium project. Option #1 with 1550 seating capacity is estimated at \$6.1 million while Option #2 with 1200 seating capacity is estimated at \$5.2 million. No action taken.

Tim Erickson from CORE Construction presented a comparison of using a Construction Manager vs. Blind Bidding. He expressed that CORE is interested in becoming the Construction Manager for the Gymnasium Project. As the Construction Manager of the High School build, CORE may continue their role with this additional phase of the high school project. No action taken.

With the board meeting following immediately after the Building/Finance Committee Meeting, there were no additional questions for Mr. Burge or Mr. Erickson.

Earlier in the Building/Finance Committee Meeting, Mr. Burge from Farnsworth provided an overview of a purpose contract that would allow them to begin the official gym project that would include blueprints, specs, and other needed architectural design to be provided to a Construction Manager. Seeing no questions, Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the contract with Farnsworth Group as presented for the Gymnasium Project with a max budget of \$5.5 million. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Also in the Building/Finance Committee Meeting, Mr. Erickson from CORE presented a contract of \$15,000 for Phase I of the Gym Project that would include design, budgeting, and work with the architect. Phase II would come after the district officially receives bond funding. A Phase II contract would then need to be presented and approved by the board prior to construction. Mr. West made a motion to approve CORE Construction as Construction Manager for Phase I of the gym project as presented. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Elliott shared that the owner and district have reached a purchase agreement for the Toulon Property (formerly the Toulon Fitness Center) at 107 Willow St. along with the two adjacent lots, per the direction of the Board. President Orwig read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION:

*WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Stark County Community Unit District No. 100 ("District") desires pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.35A to purchase the site located at 107 Willow Street, Toulon, Illinois 61483, legally described as follows:*

*Lots 3, 4 and 5, TOULON RIDGE SUBDIVISION, as shown on the Plat thereof recorded November 19, 2013, in Plat Book 2, Page 210, as Document No. 2013-100466; situated in the County of Stark and State of Illinois; subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in City of Toulon Resolution No. R845-13-11-18.*

*Permanent Tax Identification Numbers: 04-30-109-006, 04-30-109-007, and 04-30-109-008 hereinafter the "Property"; and*

*WHEREAS, Section 10-22.35A of the Illinois School Code provides authority for school boards to purchase sites for school purposes.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by The Board of Education of Stark County Community Unit District No. 100 as follows:*

*SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and fully adopted by reference.*

*SECTION 2. The Board of Education approves acquisition of the Property in accordance with 105 ILCS 10-22.35A, on the terms contained in the Real Estate Purchase Agreement attached as Exhibit A, including all attachments thereto.*

*SECTION 3. Brett Elliott, as Superintendent of the District, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents required to effectuate this Resolution in accordance with its terms and to make such minor amendments and revisions to the Real Estate Purchase Agreement as are in the best interest of the District.*

Mr. West made a motion to approve the property purchase resolution as presented and authorize the superintendent to execute any and all necessary purchase documents for the purchase of said property. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Elliott presented additional details for the Track Project including track color and sidewalk options. The main track project contract has been put into place but these final details need to be determined after input from the board, athletic director, and coaches. Track color options include black, red, or for an additional cost, Cardinal red. The board discussed the color options and the different needs for sidewalk access. The board decided to let the coaches pick the color of the track, giving them the options of black or red. They decided against spending any additional funds for the Cardinal red. The board would prefer that the straight away on the track be moved to the grand stand side, if possible. If the straight away can be moved, a sidewalk from curve to curve would be appropriate. If unable to move the straight away, a sidewalk all the way around the track would be necessary. No action was taken. A budget of up to \$1.8 million was already approved at a prior meeting.

Superintendent Elliott presented an update to the Renew America Electric Bus Grant that would utilize the existing solar array at SCES and shift grant funding towards a new bus garage that could hold a minimum of two electric buses plus quick charging stations. He shared a diagram of the campus and locations for the battery storage station, new bus barn and the current solar array. We are waiting for budget adjustments to determine how much funding will be available for a new bus barn prior to seeking estimates. No action taken.

Superintendent Elliott reviewed his 2023-24 Goals that are in the SuperEval system. Board members were presented the goals in September and provided time to review them through the SuperEval system. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Superintendent Goals as presented. Mr. Rediger seconded. Passed 6-0.

### **New Business:**

An annual action item is to approve the superintendent to begin the Tax Levy Process for 2023. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve Superintendent Elliott to begin the 2023 Tax Levy Process. Mrs. Leezer seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Elliott informed the board that if the proposed tax levy would be greater than 5% of the previous year, a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing is required prior to submitting the final Tax Levy. As past practice, the Board will hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing, regardless of exceeding the 5% increase prior to approving the final levy. No action taken.

Superintendent Elliott, Mrs. Bibb, and Ms. McGann presented an overview of the SC Guiding Coalition work that began in the summer and will continue throughout the year. With 8 key subcommittees, each will provide the Coalition Leadership with recommendations that will be formulated into a 3- 5 year strategic plan to begin in the fall of 2024. The subcommittees have been researching, surveying stakeholders, and analyzing data to guide their work. No action taken.

Ms. McGann provided an overview of the addition of Junior Achievement led by local business leaders through the 6th-12th grade Social Studies Classes. In addition, she and her team are creating a High School Heroes Program that will provide high school students with leadership and mentoring to younger students across the district and community. No action taken.

Mr. Rediger left the board meeting due to work commitments.

High School Secretary Mary Horsley with support of Ms. McGann, is requesting approval to transfer funds from the high school FCCLA activity account to the high school Student Council activity account. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the transfer of activity funds as presented. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Elliott presented a quote from Ruyle Mechanical for elementary boiler work utilizing the \$5,000 Ameren Grant presented in August. We have already received the funding from the grant. The project includes a new hot water regulation system that will assist in our steam boiler production, control, and efficiency while also providing us

data via WebCTRL Automation System to troubleshoot future issues. The total cost of the project after initial incentives and grant dollars is \$24,156. The remainder cost of the project will be resubmitted to Ameren for additional incentive available with the possibility of a 25% - 80% reimbursement. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the Elementary Boiler Project as presented at \$24,156 through Ruyle Mechanical. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the 2023-24 Snow Day/Emergency Day procedures that have been in place for the past three years. There were no changes made to the procedures for this year. We have an approved e-Learning Plan that will allow us to use up to 5 emergency days without make ups. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Snow Day/Emergency Day procedures as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

President Orwig provided an overview of the Annual Triple I School Board Conference held on November 17-18 in Chicago with a board dinner held on Friday evening. The Board of Education traditionally attends the conference bi-annually. No action taken.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

School Report Card Presentation; Possible PRESS Policy Updates; and the next series of Bond Resolutions.

**Executive Session:**

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Leezer, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, performance, retirements, employment, and resignations at 7:44 p.m. Motion was approved 5-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 25, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved 5-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Wally Parks for the district Band Stipend for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Sarah Pinon as lunchroom supervisor at SCES for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded and motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Alawna Register as part-time 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian at SCES for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve Lori Grinnell for Winter Band Supervision for the 2023-24 season. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Michael McCullough and Nolan Colgan as student custodial workers for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. West seconded. Passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.  
Motion was approved 5-0.

Ann Orwig  
President

Emily Leezer  
Secretary

Approved 11/20/2023