

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

**Regular Meeting – December 19, 2022**

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, December 19, 2022, at the Stark County Elementary School. Members present were Emily Holman, Matthew Nagode, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Brian Rewerts, David Steward, and Bruce West. No board members were absent. Also present were Brett Elliott, Superintendent; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; a citizen of the district; and a member of the press.

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by President, Mrs. Orwig, at 6:01 p.m.

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

President, Mrs. Orwig announced that they would now hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing. Mr. Elliott presented the rationale for the levy and explained the proposed amounts. The floor was opened for public comments and questions. Board member, David Steward asked who determined the EAVs and Mr. Elliott responded that he believed it was the county clerks. John Ballentine, member of the press, added that for Stark County, Renee Johnson, the county assessor determined those values. Mr. Elliott agreed with Mr. Ballentine. No other questions or comments were made, so the Truth in Taxation Hearing was closed.

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

- Approval of the November 21, 2022 minutes;
- Approval of the November Elementary Activity Funds, November JH/HS Activity Funds, November Self-Insurance Fund, and November Imprest Fund;
- Approval of the November LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$749.35, Guardian \$333.91, Guardian \$2,948.10, Guardian \$505.84, Guardian \$425.57, Stark County CUSD #100 \$143,155.08, Resource One Interior Solutions \$18,788.69, Marilyn Ely \$171.28, Sharon Kuntz \$143.00, Shirley Striping LLC \$1,750.00, State Bank of Toulon \$1,000,000.00, Office of the State Fire Marshal \$300.00, Illinois Department of Employment Security \$5,351.00, Fast Signs \$3,151.03, Office of the State Fire Marshal \$200.00, Fast Signs \$13,545.79, Stark County CUSD #100 \$168,744.87, Mary Meaker \$325.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$300.00, State Bank of Toulon (wire) \$19,996.00, State Bank of Toulon \$344,700.00, VISA \$2,041.88, VISA \$1,393.78, Imprest Fund \$3,478.38.

Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

There were no questions regarding the December bills. Motion was made by Mrs. Price, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve the December bills of \$510,503.77. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Orwig announced that due to this month's board meeting being held during winter break, it was decided to postpone Pride and Excellence Recognitions until next month when we can share the honors in person. However, on behalf of the Stark County CUSD #100 Board of Education, she thanked our incredible students, teachers, staff, administrators, and community for their relentless efforts providing our students the Ultimate Learning Environment. We are so proud of what we have accomplished already this first semester. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Visitor Comments:**

Philip Stubbs addressed the board. He first praised the school for the Christmas concerts that were held last week. While attending the Christmas concerts, he noticed that there was a pad and tampon dispenser in the boys' restroom. He asked why this was. Mr. Elliott responded that it is now required by the state to have dispensers in all restrooms. Mr. Steward asked what would happen if the school did not install them. Mr. Elliott responded that he thought the school would be cited and fined. Mr. Steward shared his opinion, that he preferred they be removed and the school pay the fine. Mr. Stubbs stated that it is our civic duty and responsibility to push back when the state makes requirements that we do not agree with.

Mr. Stubbs continued to ask questions regarding the school's policy on restroom usage. Mrs. Orwig informed Mr. Stubbs that the board does not make it a practice to respond to questions or statements during the visitor's comment section of the board meeting. Mr. Stubbs asked what he should do in order to get answers to his questions and Mrs. Orwig responded that he should contact the building principal.

**Henry-Stark Special Education Coop Update Report:**

Mrs. Orwig shared that Henry-Stark Special Education is having the same staffing problem that most of the economy is currently having. They are having trouble finding anyone to hire.

**Committee Reports:**

Mr. Nagode reported that the Board Policy Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed the latest PRESS Policy Updates, Administrative Procedures, and Exhibits. There were no significant changes to this round of updates outside of legal language revisions.

During the Education and Extra-Curricular Committee meeting earlier in the evening, Mr. Elliott shared an overview, provided by Athletic Director Roland Brown, of the interviews conducted this month for Head Varsity Softball Coach. The board will consider his recommendation for approval in the near future.

Mr. West shared that during the Finance Committee meeting, also earlier in the evening, Superintendent Elliott provided an overview of the proposed 2022 tax levy that was shared during the public hearing and that will be up for approval this evening.

**Stark County Education Foundation Report:**

No report, the meeting proceeded.

**Administrative Reports:**

Mr. Elliott announced that due to the December board meeting being held during winter break, they gave the principals and assistant principal the night off. He presented the Stark County Elementary School (SCES) report on behalf of Principal, Jenna Bibb: The SCES held their second cycle of Tier 3 review meetings with families. There are currently 9 students with Tier 3 intervention plans. During this cycle, one student qualified for special education and one student made progress to return to Tier 2. Miss Meaker hosted her first Christmas Concert this month. It was a packed house with good feedback. Mr. Elliott added that the addition of the Junior High parking lot will be handy during these types of events. Several teachers were awarded SCEF teacher grants. Watch the Rebel Reporter for articles spotlighting their projects. Thank you to our many staff members who sponsored families in need this Christmas. Thank you to Quality Cable for a generous donation to SCES. We plan to use part of the money to purchase a sound system for the SCES cafeteria. This will be beneficial during lunch and during board meetings. Thank you to the many families who provided treats for staff members during the weeks before Christmas break.

Mr. Elliott also presented the Stark County Junior High/High School report on behalf of Principal, Megan McGann: Additional College & Career trips were taken to MTI and Eureka College in December. Over 50 Juniors/Seniors took part in the visit. Mrs. Lancaster took the lead, with her PHEARCE classes, on a student lead project in collaboration with our SIP Day presenter, Mr. Alsheimer's cause "Rae of Hope". This project included JH students raising money to create gift boxes for OSF Children's Hospital. They then delivered those gifts to OSF last Friday. PLCs this month focused on revisiting our curriculum pathways. HS teachers have reviewed their course offerings and worked with counselors on developing their course pathway for review in January. Over 200 students met or exceeded their Winter Benchmark goal and attended a STAR Incentive Pancake Breakfast on Friday. Over 80 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade students met both their Math and Reading goals. Teachers are proud and have been bragging on the students. We celebrated Quarter 2 goals by hosting a Student vs. Staff Basketball game. Over 80% of the HS attended and over 90% of the JH attended. Kuddos to Mrs. Roark on a great final winter concert. Both the JH/HS choir and band performances were successful with a great turn out of support from families. We are so thankful for Mrs. Roark's dedication to our fine arts programs. She also hosted a meet and greet for Ms. Allen (who will be taking over after Mrs. Roark's retirement) after the program, which was very well received by families and students.

There were no questions on the principals' reports, so Mr. Elliott continued with his own Superintendent report: We are proud to announce the Illinois State Scholars for the Stark County High School Class of 2023: Congratulations to Jack Colgan, Kylee Frisby, Lauren West, Andrew Hurst, Jordan McCauley, Paige Rewerts, and Mark Wagner. We will officially honor them at an upcoming board meeting. We are excited to open the new corridor, restrooms, and library when we return from winter break at SCJSH. The glass wall and lights are looking awesome. The library furniture is on back order and will arrive late February. We will use temporary furniture in the meantime. Once all items arrive and we are fully complete, we will host another community open house. We have had a very festive December at both campuses with spirit days, holiday concerts, endless treats and meals, and plenty of positive energy. We love the positive, high energy culture

throughout the district that continues to welcome all students and make their educational experience fun and enjoyable. A special thanks to our teachers, staff, and building administrators for creating this incredible culture. Upon approval of tonight's tax levy, we will hand deliver the documents to each county clerk tomorrow, throughout the day, to ensure meeting the state deadline of December 31, 2022.

Mr. Elliott then provided a budget update, stating that we continue stay on target with the budget. There were no questions, the meeting proceeded.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Orwig made a motion to adopt the 2022 Tax Levy as presented and to direct the superintendent to submit the certificate of levy to the county clerks. Seconded by Mr. West and approved by 7-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott stated that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening to review the five bids for asphalt and expansion of the junior high parking lot and alternative bids for concrete. With the recommendation from our architect and in respect to our budget, the committee recommends awarding the asphalt bid to Potter and Sons Blacktopping, Inc. Wyoming, IL at \$295,000.00. Mr. Elliott added that the architect had estimated \$285,000.00 and that did not include the removal of 3 large trees at an expense of \$10,000.00. New trees will be planted at a later date in replacement of the trees that will have to be removed. Mr. Steward made a motion to award the Junior High Parking Lot project bid to Potter and Sons Blacktopping, Inc. at \$295,000.00 as presented. Ms. Holman seconded. Motion approved by a 7-0 vote.

The Policy Committee met earlier in the evening to review PRESS Policy updates from the most recent PRESS Issue #110. Mr. Nagode made a motion to adopt Issue #110 PRESS Policy updates as presented. Seconded by Mr. West and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Although it was updated and approved on July 18, 2022, it is recommended that we officially review the Risk Management Plan at the time of the Tax Levy approval. A summary of coverage in the Tort Fund includes: annual insurance, legal cost/liability, percentage of salaries (Superintendent 50%, Building Administration 35%, School Nurses 20%, Maintenance Director 10%). No action taken.

**New Business:**

Mr. Elliott explained that the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act requires that all school boards in Illinois take action annually to comply with the law. One requirement each year is that the board set the maximum allowable reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging expenses for board members and employees. This is an annual item for board approval. It is acknowledging the amount we have allocated for travel purposes. This year is reduced since we did not attend the Annual Triple I Conference. The amount is \$32,000.00. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the expense reimbursements for the amount of \$32,000.00 for FY23. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rewerts and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott shared the decline of the fencing surrounding the football practice field. With the new high school building, this is cosmetically unappealing, deteriorating, and can be removed at little to no cost. If our staff removes it, we are sure that scrappers will pick up and dispose of the materials for free. Motion was made by Mrs. Price to approve the removal of the high school practice field fence, seconded by Mr. Steward. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott shared that the Education and Extra-Curricular Committee met earlier in the evening to discuss the addition of Bass Fishing as an IHSA Activity in the Spring of 2023, pending meeting all criteria. There are community volunteers who have expressed their willingness to provide boats for the students. He recommended that this be approved for our students. Mr. West made a motion to approve IHSA Bass Fishing Activity as presented for the Spring of 2023. Mr. Nagode seconded and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

For our new SCJSH guidance counselor, Ms. Westphal, Skyward scheduling is a vital part of her daily duties. Providing her additional training is a priority. Mr. Elliott recommended sending Shannon Westphal to the National Skyward Conference in St. Pete, Florida, March 1-3, 2023. Ms. Westphal has lodging covered with family. The district would cover travel and the \$600 conference registration fee. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the Skyward conference fee and out of state travel for Shannon Westphal as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rewerts. Motion approved by a 7-0.

With our continued culture shift throughout the district and the board, Mr. Elliott recommended a board retreat for continued growth to be held before the January 17, 2023 school board meeting. The meeting is on a Tuesday due to Monday being a holiday and the board would meet for 2-3 hours before the meeting. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to hold a school board retreat on January 17, 2023, which was seconded by Mr. West, and approved by a 7-0 vote. Mr. Rewerts questioned if they had moved the meeting time up in the past, but it was agreed to keep the meeting at the normal time.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

Possible approval of Auditor Contract; Discussion of hiring process for FY24 open positions; possible recognition of Illinois State Scholars and ILMEA Qualifiers; potential discussion of superintendent evaluation and contract extension; discussion of school calendar for 2023-24.

**Executive Session:**

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Price, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing superintendent evaluation and contract extension, employee compensation, performance, resignations, and employment at 6:33 p.m. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:51 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 21, 2022, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve Seth King as junior high lunch supervisor for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Caitlin Meaker as musical accompanist for the 2023 Stark County High School Musical. Seconded by Mrs. Price. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve a salary adjustment for Transportation Director, Toni Nowlan, that included adding an additional 15 work days to her contract. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Ann Orwig  
President

Matt Nagode  
Secretary

Approved 1/17/2023