

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

Regular Meeting – March 20, 2023

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, March 20, 2023, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Matthew Nagode, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Brian Rewerts, David Steward, and Bruce West. Emily Holman was 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; Stark County 7th Grade volleyball players and coaches; a few Stark County 5th Graders; 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 were:

- Approval of the February 21, 2023 minutes;
- Approval of the February Elementary Activity Funds, February JH/HS Activity Funds, February Self-Insurance Fund, February Imprest Fund, and January Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the February LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$298.98, Stark County CUSD #100 \$142,659.40, Guardian \$318.22, Guardian \$2,896.72, Guardian \$515.23, Guardian \$386.60, Michelle Loeffler \$437.50, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, Green Street Renewables \$37,327.50, Stark County CUSD #100 \$152,529.98, State Bank of Toulon \$10,725.85, Mary Meaker \$300.00, Michelle Loeffler \$437.50, VISA \$20.86, VISA \$1,107.50, VISA \$340.18, Fast Signs \$13,545.78, IL Office of the State Fire Marshal \$130.00, Turnbull's Precision Painting \$5,860.00, Imprest Fund \$3,675.09.

Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of March bills. Mrs. Orwig asked where they were at with Farnsworth architect payments. Mr. Elliott responded that we are at 98% paid. Mr. Steward ask for clarification on if that was with the whole project and Mr. Elliott confirmed that it was. Mrs. Orwig then asked about the payment to Heart Technology, in which Mr. Elliott responded that this was a payment for fiscal year 2022 E-Rate. Mrs. Orwig asked if this was an item that was paid and reimbursed. Mr. Elliott responded yes. Mr. Nagode noted that there was a payment to Ruyle Mechanical and asked if they were on a long-term contract or just hired on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Elliott responded that they are hired on a case-by-case basis and this specific check was for the rebuild of a pump at the elementary. Mr. Nagode commented that it makes sense to him that we work with Ruyle because our maintenance director has a lot of responsibilities and can only do so much. Motion was made by Mr. Steward, seconded by Mr. Rewerts, to approve the March bills of \$195,504.25. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to the Stark County 7th Grade volleyball team as they won the 2023 IESA Regional Championship this past month. Many of these student athletes have also been a part of the IESA Softball and Basketball Regional Championships this year as well. Congratulations to Coaches Katina Hegwood and Mary Jo Groter as well as our 2023 IESA Regional Champions: Coley Johnston, Darilis Knoblach, Hallie Newton, Cambri Holmstrom, Taylor Price, Gracie Rowell, Madison Ensey, Laikyn LaCorte, Kamiyah Webster, Annalynn Terwilliger, and Natalia Pinacho. Principal McGann added that she is super proud of these students and is excited for them to continue to compete in the coming years.

A second Pride and Excellence Recognition was presented to the following Stark County Elementary School Cafeteria Helpers: Carter Down, Colby Gentle, Brenna Leezer, Wyatt Gibson, JP Boarman, Aaron Newby, and Connor Woith. Each year Ms. Patterson selects a group of 5th grade students to assist in the cafeteria with cleanup after lunch. This group of leaders is being honored tonight and will be treated to a pizza party later this week. Thank you for your leadership. Mrs. Bibb added that these students are not just chosen, they volunteer to help Ms. Patterson. Ms. Patterson emphasized that these students work hard and do an excellent job. She also noted that they help her set up for the board meetings as well.

Mrs. Orwig announced that this concluded our Pride and Excellence Recognition for this evening and that everyone was welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting but that we all understood if they wanted to leave. A majority of the crowd left.

Visitor Comments:

Jon Looney, a trustee for Black Hawk College, spoke during our visitor comments section of the meeting. He referenced the interesting times that they have gone through over the last 6 years during his time as a trustee: they were facing a faculty strike which was avoided and resulted in extended contracts, they built a new equine facility, other remodels were done throughout the campuses. Black Hawk College is in the process of electing a new president and he encouraged everyone to come to the forums as choosing a new college president is very important. He mentioned that he is also running for re-election as a trustee. Finally, he concluded by stating that the dual enrollment partnership between Black Hawk College and Stark County High School is important to him and that is why he was reaching out to us today. He is happy to help answer any questions we may have. Mrs. Orwig agreed that the dual enrollment partnership is important. She commented that Stark County plans to continue to work with Black Hawk and that during the committee meeting earlier that evening they had a discussion about dual credits.

Stark County Education Foundation Report:

Foundation President, Mr. Elliott presented that the Foundation finalized the release of the senior scholarships on March 12th with a deadline of mid-night on March 31st and a presentation of awards at Senior Day on May 9th at 9:00 am at Stark County High School. They also finalized the amounts of each scholarship and have contacted all donors to notify them of the deadline of April 26th to choose awardee(s).

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Orwig shared an overview of the discussion that took place during the Education and Extra-Curricular Committee meeting regarding weighted courses, athletic fees, official fees, and paperless progress reports for the 2023-24 school year. These items are up for approval tonight. The committee recommends approval of the spring 2023 official fee rate increase, and the proposed new athletic fee rates along with the plan for paperless progress reports for 2023-24.

Henry Stark Cooperative Governing Board Report:

Mrs. Orwig presented an update on the quarterly Henry Stark Governing Board meeting that was held on March 16, 2023. She stated that they had a pretty standard agenda and that Director Greg Wertheim was here at the meeting tonight as he plans visit all of the school boards in the area covered by the Henry Stark Cooperative.

Mr. Wertheim greeted the board. He communicates with Mrs. Orwig and Mr. Elliott often and enjoys visiting the board members. Mr. Wertheim reminded the board that they can always reach out and contact him if they need anything or have any questions. He provided a hand out and reviewed a few stats with the board. Stark County's Special Education Population Percentage for fiscal year 2023 is 15.2% which is very comparable to the state average of 14-15%. Some of the special education students only receive 15 minutes of speech therapy per day while others receive assistance all day. Special Education Federal Funding has stayed the same over the years even though expenses continue to increase. Henry Stark received some ESSER III Federal Money that was flowed through to Stark County. Mr. Wertheim plans to continue these visits once a year.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that the elementary school held their spring Tier 3 team meetings and spent time last week working with families to develop and modify individual intervention plans for students in need of academic intervention. We are in the midst of IEP annual review season which is a great opportunity for our special education staff to meet and review annual goals, adjust special education programming, and collaborate with families. This spring, PLCs have been focusing on alignment between learning standards, curriculum materials, and report card assessments. We have targeted science, social studies, and social-emotional learning. Preschool Screenings are scheduled for March 30th and will be held at the Stark County Athletic Complex. The Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education is providing screeners to assist with our Preschool Screenings as they have done for the last several years. Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for Monday, April 17th from 3:30-5:30 pm. At this event, we will pre-register our incoming kindergartners as well as allow families and incoming learners to tour the building, ask questions, and meet next year's kindergarten teachers. We are excited to once again hold Reading Bingo. Elementary students are hard at work reading and earning bingos. Bingos are their tickets to the Bingo Celebration to be held on March 31st. Mrs. Lancaster's PHEARCE class is planning a fun Easter Extravaganza for our SCES students on the afternoon of March 31st. Mr. Siekmann is facilitating the Kids Heart Challenge to raise money for the American Heart Association. Our kickoff event was March 10th and students will be participating in Heart Healthy Activities during PE classes.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that counselors have met with all incoming Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors to hand out course selection sheets and discuss class registration for next year. Counselors will visit English classes within the upcoming weeks to begin the process for students to enter their course selections in Skyward for scheduling. Stark County Junior High and High School Honors Students were recognized at the Wyoming Lions Club annual dinner where they presented their goals and plans for the future. FFA recorded an overall win on their Envirothon Land Use Council 2 at Black Hawk East and will compete at the state contest in May in Monticello. Sophomore, Chelsey Stotler, advances to the state awards competition on March 25th in Decatur for her record book in Agriscience Research Integrated Food Systems and the State Agriscience Fair at the state convention in June. Her project focuses on Determining Probiotic Viability in Freeze-Dried Greek Yogurt. Tier I and Tier II problem solving meetings finished up in March and identified students that need additional supports. Individual meetings with Freshmen Off Track and Seniors at risk of not graduating will take place through the end of the month to refocus student goals. The Stark County Education Foundation Scholarship application has been released to seniors for submissions. Interviews will take place on Thursday, April 13th with Senior Honors Day on Tuesday, May 9th at 9:00 am. Earlier tonight we honored our 7th grade girls' volleyball team who recently won the IESA Regional. HOPE Week wrapped up last week with a great turnout at student led events including our Student vs. Staff Basketball game, Carnival, Bake Sale, and Pep Assembly. Kudos to our SCHS Student Council for all of their hard work this past week and congratulations on a successful HOPE Week. There has been some discussion about possibly combining HOPE Week and Winterfest. We are preparing for our Spring Musical, Spring Sports, and Spring Fine Arts events during the busy upcoming months of March and April. State testing starts next week. Our second senior signing day will take place on Friday, April 14th at 3:15 pm at the SCHS gymnasium with friends and family welcome to join.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott announced that we are hosting a Grand Opening of the new Stark County Junior Senior High School Library for students and staff on Thursday, March 23rd with treats, coffee, and all English Language Arts classes visiting the library. The new furniture has been installed and the final touches, including filling the book cases, is underway. Students are proud of the new library, which was also featured on the SC News. Thank you to all of the staff members who have been working hard to get the library ready to open. We plan to have a Spring Community Open House of the entire campus after Spring Break once the seeding of the grounds is in place. Painting of the Stark County Athletic Complex began today as the next step in our facilities upgrades. Conference banners will also be hung in the gym over spring break. The Junior High parking lot project will also begin in the next week. We congratulate SCES on another successful Family Literacy Night and for their efforts since February 1st in promoting the love of reading. This campaign will conclude with a Reading Bingo Breakfast Event at the end of this month. Congratulations to the SCHS Student Council for leading our Annual HOPE Week for St. Jude. This included a spirit week, community carnival, student vs. staff basketball event, numerous assemblies, and fundraising in support of the Children of St. Jude. We proudly hosted the Junior High Solo and Ensemble Contest at SCES on Friday, March 17th with over 40 Stark County students plus students from Bradford, Neponset and various home-schooled students.

A special thanks to Mrs. Roark and her team for leading this event. A reminder that Spring Break is April 3 – 10, with students and staff returning on Tuesday, April 11th. Senior Honors Day is set for 9:00 am, Tuesday, May 9th; Graduation is Sunday, May 14th at 1:00 pm; and 8th Grade Promotion is Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00 pm. The last day of school for all students and staff is Friday, May 26th with an 11:00 am student dismissal. Mr. Elliott concluded with a budget update on expenditures through 67.7% of fiscal year 2023 stating that we continue to be on target in all areas. We will need to amend the budget before the end of the year because we received more interest than anticipated in one of the funds. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott regarding his report or budget update.

Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the bus bids from three companies that were received and opened on March 16th. He recommended that they extend the following leases: (3) 2021 65 Passenger 2 year lease extension at \$16,689.51 per bus per year for a total cost of \$100,137.06; (1) 2020 14 passenger 2 year lease extension at \$13,349.09 per year for a total cost of \$26,698.18; (1) 2019 14 passenger 1 year lease extension at \$14,135.15 for a grand total of \$140,970.39. Mr. Nagode asked for clarification on which buses were being recommended, the 2019 or 2020? Mr. Elliott is recommending both the 2019 and 2020, along with the (3) 2021 buses. Mr. Nagode asked if there have been any problems with the older full size buses. Mr. Elliott answered no, just the basic maintenance (i.e. tires). Mrs. Orwig asked if Midwest Bus would continue to service the buses through the extension. Mr. Elliott confirmed that they would. Mr. Steward made a motion to award Midwest Bus Sales with the fiscal year 2024 bus lease as presented and recommended by Mr. Elliott, Mr. Nagode seconded. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

At the last meeting, Mr. Nagode had requested an update on how the Stark County Elementary School Solar Grid was impacting usage and cost. Mr. Elliott presented an overview comparing July – December of 2021 vs. 2022. He compared kilowatts used and broke down the different costs included within the energy bills. The school is paying for less kilowatts than the prior year, but as we have all noticed on our power bills, Federal rates have increased dramatically. Even with this Federal increase, the SCES power bills have still been reduced by 8%. Mr. Elliott noted that he learned a lot in preparing this update as requested by Mr. Nagode, and that through this review of prior bills, an error was discovered so the school will be receiving a credit on a future bill. Mr. Nagode expressed his appreciation to Mr. Elliott for his efforts in preparing this update. Mr. Nagode felt that the community was owed an update and commented that this information shows that the solar panels installed were not oversized in comparison to the usage at the SCES. Mr. Steward asked what the cost to install the solar panels was. Mr. Elliott responded that it did not cost the school anything to install the solar panels because the company that installed them gets the rights to any extra energy that is produced.

New Business:

Technology Director, Mike Bunch presented the fiscal year 2024 E-Rate submission in the amount of \$40,185.62 that is reimbursed in the amount of \$17,623.62. Mr. Bunch noted that these items are years overdue to be replaced and that he understands this expense will deplete Fund 20 through fiscal year 2025. He had to order a new brand due to the usual brand being out of stock; this new brand is more expensive. Mr. Elliott added that tech expenses were also higher this year due to the new construction. Mr. West made a motion to approve the FY24 E-Rate Proposal as presented. Mr. Rewerts seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Per the recommendation of the Registration Committee, Mr. Elliott presented a proposed updated fee schedule for student athletic/activity fees. The committee proposed a one-time fee per student or per family for an unlimited number of sports/activities. This would allow for easier record keeping for the school offices. Athletic/activity fees would be \$60 for one student or \$120 for a family, and these one-time fees would cover any and all sport(s)/activity(ies) the student(s) participates in throughout the school year. For students who qualify for Direct Cert/Fee Waiver, the fee is reduced to \$30 for one student or \$50 for a family. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the Athletic/Activity Fees for the 2023-24 school year as presented. Mrs. Price seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented the ISP IGA as a portal for schools to report any clear and present danger concerns to the state to be further investigated in regards to removal of FOID Cards from the accused. This has been through legal, renegotiated, and is now recommended for board approval by our board legal counsel. The Clear and Present Danger law is not new and has been in place for over eight years. This is just a new portal to house information. We are looking to gather additional information in the next few weeks prior to adopting the resolution in April. No action taken.

The Education Committee reviewed the recommendation of moving select dual credit courses, Physics and Pre-Calculus as weighted courses beginning in the 2023-24 school year, grandfathering in the weight to any returning high school students who have previously completed said courses. At this time the board is not going to take any action as the team continues to work on a comprehensive learning plan.

Surrounding districts have increased their spring softball/baseball officials' rates ranging from \$70-\$100 per game. Although we increased our rates in the fall to \$60 per game, we are not competitive in an "official shortage" market. We recommend a rate change for baseball/softball officials for the spring 2023 season to \$80 per game and \$160 for a double header, effective retroactively for games already played this spring. Mr. Steward made a motion to increase the baseball/softball officials' rates to \$80 per game and \$160 for a double header retroactively as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. West and passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott provided information on the Stark County Council for Continuous Improvement's efforts in creating a commercial campaign for Stark County to further promote the recruitment of new families, new employees, and patrons for local businesses. At this time, two commercials have been completed and a third is in the works. The average cost per commercial through the vendor Videogenique is \$2,500 - \$3,500 and he asks that the board consider a commercial exclusively promoting the school district. Mrs. Orwig added that she heard the businesses who have already participated in the commercial campaign have been very happy with the results. She also feels that it is the board's duty to the community to promote the school with the hopes of bringing in more students and people to the community. No action needed.

Per the recommendation of the Registration Committee in our efforts towards going paperless, we propose that the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grading period Progress Reports be posted on the Student/Parent Skyward tab with electronic email communication when released and no hard copy mailed home. The 1st grading period would still be sent home via paper. Over 700 progress reports are sent out so this process would save a lot of time and paper. Mrs. Orwig added that the Education Committee had discussed this and recommends approval. Mr. West made a motion to approve electronic progress reports for the 2023-24 school year as presented. Mr. Rewerts seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented the annual hiring of M and M Lawn Service for April 1 through November 1, 2023 to maintain lawn care of our football field and surrounding property at a rate of \$45 per hour. This is the same rate they charged us last year. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve M and M Lawn Service as presented. Mrs. Price seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

President Orwig explained the need to have a more formal superintendent evaluation system and recommends the SuperEval Platform. It provides the opportunity for ongoing documentation throughout the year, can be set up based on goals set by the board, it will be more user friendly and thorough while also reducing subjectivity. She attended a virtual workshop for a more in depth understanding and feedback from current district board members and superintendents currently using this platform. Mr. Elliott added that the board can set goals and he can upload documentation related to those goals throughout the year. This helps to have a more accurate evaluation that is based on the whole year not just what is going on in January during the evaluation process. Mr. Nagode asked who manages it. Mrs. Orwig answered that the board president would be in charge but all board members would have access to add documentation and notes throughout the year. Mr. Nagode asked if this platform was web based. Mrs. Orwig answered that it is and that if they liked the platform it is possible to add more positions later. She also noted that items submitted can be discussed and ratings changed at year end. She believes this platform will help the board to better evaluate the superintendent in relation to what they ask of him each year. The initial cost is \$2,195.00 which includes a startup fee, then the annual cost is approximately \$1,800.00 with a \$250.00 additional charge per position if they chose to add more positions for evaluation. Seeing no other questions, Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the SuperEval Platform for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Steward seconded. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented that Career Link will continue to provide employment of our annual student summer workers via the state grant approved in 2022. The grant will pay for 8-12 student workers. We are asking the board for permission to continue placement of these student workers for the summer of 2023. Mr. West made a motion to approve the placement of 8-12 Career Link student workers through August 11, 2023. Mr. Nagode seconded. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott stated that an annual action item is to approve an adult summer technology support staff to assist Technology Director Mike Bunch with Chromebook updating and preparation for the new year. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the posting of one summer technology support staff position for 2023. Mr. Rewerts seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

The school is required to renew its membership with the Illinois High School Association annually. At this time, there is no cost for the renewal. Mr. West made a motion to approve the renewal of the IHSA Membership for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Steward seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott shared that due to retirements and resignations there are no RIF's or non-renewals of certified staff in the 2022-23 school year. No action taken.

Mr. Elliott then announced that a copy of the Annual Seniority List for 2022-23 was included in the board packet. No action taken.

Items for Next Meeting:

Possible approval of IESA Annual Contracts; Possible PRESS Updates; Possible approval of Auditor Contract; Possible Art/Music Student Recognition.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mr. Nagode, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, performance, resignations, and employment at 7:20 p.m. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. Steward, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve John England as paid Assistant Junior High Track Coach for the 2022-23 season. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of K.C. Singer, SCES 2nd Shift Custodian, effective March 10, 2023.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve Kasey Juskiv as SCES 2nd Shift Custodian for the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve David Hatfield as a Pre-School Bus Aide for the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Rewerts seconded. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Caitlin Meaker, Elementary Music Teacher, at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve the maternity leave for Amy Sierra, Elementary School Teacher, for the projected eight weeks: August 14 – October 6, 2023. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Savannah Potter, Kids Care Supervisor, effective March 17, 2023.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Gayle Grundstrom as SCHS Cheer Coach effective February 24, 2023.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Katie Allen for lunch supervision for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode announced the resignation of Lauren Coyle, High School ELA Teacher, effective April 11, 2023.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Matt Nagode
Secretary

Approved 4/17/2023