

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

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2023

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Emily Holman, Matthew Nagode, Ann Orwig, and Bruce West. Erin Price, David Steward, and Brian Rewerts 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; Stark County FFA students; 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 6:05 p.m.

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

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

- Approval of the January 17, 2023 minutes;
- Approval of the January Elementary Activity Funds, January JH/HS Activity Funds, January Self-Insurance Fund, January Imprest Fund, and November and December Treasurer's Reports;
- Approval of the January LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$417.79, Guardian \$341.18, Guardian \$2,946.78, Guardian \$528.31, Guardian \$419.05, Stark County CUSD #100 \$157,517.55, James Unland & Co. Inc. \$607.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$164,683.18, Mary Meaker \$225.00, Mitel Cloud Services \$620.65, VISA \$393.88, Jay McDaniels/Midstate Athletics \$750.00, Imprest Fund \$7,640.82.

Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of February bills. Mrs. Orwig asked where they were at with CORE Construction payments? Mr. Elliott responded that we are all caught up and per the contract with CORE, there is only up to \$150,000.00 more to be spent in order to finish up a few punch list items. Mr. West commented that he thought CORE was working on these punch list items this last week and Mr. Elliott confirmed that they were. Mr. Nagode asked if the power company bills reflected the solar panels. Mr. Elliott responded that that was correct. Motion was made by Ms. Holman, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the February bills of \$1,115,946.96. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

The Stark County High School FFA program continues to participate and host a variety of leadership and community activities. Ms. Wilkinson provided an overview of their accomplishments and activities, details about what FFA is, why students choose to participate in FFA, the FFA mission/motto/vision, and Three Circles Model of Ag Education. One the SC FFA members is also the FFA Section III Secretary (Blair Snyder) and there are 91 students enrolled in agriculture courses at SCHS. Blair Snyder

then spoke about her reason for running for Section III Secretary and the benefits of holding such title. National FFA week is this week! Thank you to all of those that support our FFA students. The FFA Executive Board ended their presentation with a request for approval to attend an officer's retreat in Denver, Colorado this year instead of the retreat they normally go to in St. Louis, Missouri. They hope to take the Amtrak to Denver and use public transportation while there.

Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to the Stark County High School FFA Executive Board and FFA teacher, Ms. Wilkinson. The SCHS FFA Executive Board includes: President Colby Stotler, Vice Presidents Blair Snyder, Olivia Orwig, and Kailey Smith, Treasurer Logan Goerks, Secretary Kylie Gillespie, Reporter Chelsey Stotler, Sentinel Katelynn Allen, Historian Lauren Orwig, Chaplain Lane Joos, Parliamentarian Jimmy Langdon, and Chairman Charlie Rouse.

A second Pride and Excellence Recognition was presented to the following Stark County Junior High musicians who represented SCJH at the All State Choir Competition on January 28, 2023. We are so proud of their efforts in representing the Pride and Excellence of Stark County: Jalynn Conlin, Will Denton, Kaylee Goerks, Aidan Grinnell, Mackenzie Hamilton, Michelle Lane, Makayla Mummert, and Norah Rorem. Also, a special thanks to Angie Roark for her leadership and dedication to the arts.

Mr. Elliott commented that he was proud of the diversity of Stark County CUSD#100 in recognizing both the agricultural and art successes of our students. Mrs. Orwig announced that the Pride and Excellence Recognition portion of the meeting had concluded and that the board understood if the students and members of the community wanted to leave although they were welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting. Everyone in the crowd left except for the member of the press.

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Orwig shared that the Education Committee had met before the board meeting. She provided an update on the proposed 2023-24 High School Curriculum Guide and recommended that the board approve the guide as presented with the addition as discussed. No questions, this is an agenda item for approval later in the meeting.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, reported that teacher summative evaluations are almost complete. Our two first year teachers are doing well; they seek feedback and collaboration for continued growth and offer a positive benefit to our school climate and culture. Teachers who have moved grade levels this year are also doing well in their new grade levels. We have scheduled a mid-semester benchmark assessment to assess our progress towards school goals, make adjustments to core instruction, and modify intervention plans for applicable students. We are in the midst of our spring assessment window. We have one student taking the DLM (Dynamic Learning Maps) assessment and one student taking the ACCESS test. Our IAR window is scheduled for March 20-29, with fifth graders scheduled to take the Illinois Science

Assessment during that window as well. Mrs. Kunkel and her team are hosting Family Literacy Night on Thursday, March 9th. Thanks to the Stark County Fine Arts Network and SCES Parents Club for hosting Opera for the Young. Thanks to Ms. Wilkinson and her crew for hosting a petting zoo for us during FFA week.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that PLC has taken off this semester with an increased focus on understanding how our data can assist with our instructional planning. Counselors are prepping our roll out of High School course selections to take place in March to begin building our Master Schedule for Fall 2023. Teacher leaders have confirmed IAR and SAT Testing schedules for State Testing this Spring. All High School students moved in to the new lockers today and the students were very excited to utilize this new feature of our school. Kudos to our Junior High Math Team on showing immense growth from students overall from STAR Fall Winter Percentile. This team is dialed in on doing what is best for students and continues to develop their instructional craft every week within PLCs and independent professional development. We hosted our first Winterfest Week with a focus on the local cause, "H is for Hoodies". Students participated in daily spirit days, Penny Wars, a Hoodie Drive, an energy packed Winterfest assembly, and students attended a High School dance on Saturday evening. Overall, our school community donated 109 hoodies and raised \$670.00 in coins for the District 1H Lions cause. FFA Week kicks off this week, February 21-24 with daily spirit days, assemblies, and celebrations. Congratulations to the Vet Science CDE who competed at Black Hawk East recently. They placed 2nd overall in the competition. Four team members will advance to the state competition in March at the the University of Illinois. Our very own Kailey Smith placed 1st as an individual in the varsity contest. There were no questions on Ms. McGann's report.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott provided an update. The "Committee of 10" was honored on Friday, February 10, 2023. We treated the Committee members and their families to a hospitality room where many stories and memories were shared. A tour of the new construction was provided prior to the recognition of the group at halftime of the varsity boys' basketball game. A permanent plaque is now displayed in the foyer in honor of their leadership that led to the creation of Stark County CUSD #100 in 1992. A special thanks to Jackie Carrol and Clint Terwilliger for helping gather contact information for this honor to take place. Thank you to board member, Bruce West, for recommending this event, and maintenance director, Bob Bohm, for hanging the plaque. 6 out of the 8 living Committee members were present or sent family to be honored in their place. We also gave them each a brick from the old high school building. Once again, we want to thank the "Committee of 10": Ron Shambaugh, Chuck Terwilliger, Barney Villatte, Sharon Villatte, Sandi Clark, Jack McGinnis, Bruce Dutton, Wayne Winans, Chris McMillen, and Perry Muckey. We are in the heart of this year's SCES parent club fundraiser, "Reading Under the Big Top" and "Reading Bingo". Reading Across America is March 2nd and Family Literacy Night is March 9th, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Our Junior High Parking Lot project has begun the basic prep, starting with the removal of three trees that would be lost once digging begins. We have plans to replace the trees upon completion of the project. SCJSHS hosted their first "Winterfest 2023". This informal winter homecoming filled the campus with great energy including a spirit week, fundraising totaling \$670.00 and over 100 hoodies donated, home basketball games, pep assembly, and Neon, Black Light Dance. The new LED Athletic Complex

Sign was installed today and will be a beacon of Excellence for our entire community and all visitors. This will make it easier for visiting teams to find the Athletic Complex. Mrs. Orwig added that this was important as visiting teams have mentioned that they don't know where to go. Mr. Elliott continued, stating that the sign is on now but they still need to install a timer. Mr. Elliott had met with each building principal and department director for Mid-Year reviews, goal setting. Each department director has been assigned the task to design goals for the 2023-24 school year and present them to the superintendent by June 1, 2023. We want to acknowledge once again, the contributions and efforts of the Stark County Athletic Boosters led by Wendy German and Trisha Berchtold along with Carol Potter and Sarah Lindley. This group has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to a variety of our athletic programs and continues to go above and beyond. We look forward to honoring this group at a fall home football game next year. Mr. Elliott emphasized that the Boosters support ALL of our sports programs, and then wrapped up his report with a budget update. He stated that we are doing well, right on pace. We are 95% paid up to Farnsworth and have up to \$150,000 more left to pay CORE Construction. We should have some money left at the end of the year. There were no questions on the superintendent's report.

Unfinished Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the second reading of the proposed school calendar provided by the Calendar Committee for 2023-24:

- Teacher Institute: Monday, August 14, 2023
- First Day of School for Students: Tuesday, August 15
- All Staff Institutes/BIST Training: August 31, September 1 (No School for Students)
- Early Release (8:00 am – 1:45 pm) through Labor Day
- Evening Parent Conferences: October 17 and 19
- Parent Conference Trade Day (No School): Friday, October 20
- Thanksgiving Break: November 22-24
- Winter Break: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – Friday, January 5, 2024 (Students)
- Teacher Institute: Friday, January 5
- Students/Staff return from Winter Break: Monday, January 8
- Spring Break: Friday, March 29 – April 5
- Students/Staff Return from Spring Break: Monday, April 8
- Graduation: Sunday, May 12
- Eighth Grade Promotion/Last Day: Wednesday, May 15
- Last Day of School/SIP Day: Thursday, May 23: 11:00 am Student Dismissal
- Emergency Days: April 4, 5, May 24, 28, 29
- SIP Days: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Feb. 28, April 24, May 23

Mr. Nagode asked the reasoning for early release at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Elliott said that this gives the students time to get adjusted back a school schedule, the teachers also appreciate it as it gives them some extra time to prep, and the administration often uses the time for training. Overall it just provides a nice transition period. Mrs. Orwig added that during Calendar Committee meetings, the teachers expressed that they really appreciate the early release days.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the school calendar for the 2023-24 school year as presented, Ms. Holman seconded. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

The Education Committee met earlier in the evening and Mrs. Orwig provided an overview of the proposed 2023-24 High School Curriculum Guide. Mrs. Orwig read the statement that was added during the committee meeting for the board members that were not present at the committee meeting. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the 2023-24 High School Curriculum Guide as presented with the additional wording as discussed. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott shared an overview of major cost saving measures during his tenure, exceeding \$500,000 in annual savings. They have been working to cut costs so that they are able to meet the required increases in teacher salaries and keep up with the state minimum wage requirements. When there is a million dollar project, it can look like all we are doing is spending money but we have been cutting costs elsewhere. Mr. Elliott reviewed some specific numbers and areas of the budget where costs have been cut over the last few years including the elimination of positions after staff retirements and offsetting costs with grant monies. No action taken.

Mr. Nagode thanked Mr. Elliott for the presentation and stated that it was good to see that we are working hard to best use the community's money. Regarding the elimination of positions, we need to make sure we are not overloading employees as we do not want them to get burned out. The other members of the board agreed. Mr. Elliott commented that we are looking to fill the current open positions. Mrs. Orwig added that there are currently students working at the school through Careerlink which is funded by the state and that has also helped.

Technology Services Director, Mike Bunch previously presented to Mr. Elliott the purchase of 180 Acer Chromebooks at \$129 each for a total of \$30,600 including delivery. This comes in at a cost of \$100 less per Chromebook and a total savings of \$18,000. These will be used by the 4th, 7th, and 10th graders starting in 2023-24. We will utilize our levied lease funds to cover the cost. Mr. Bunch added that there was a switch in brand from HP to Acer. The HPs that are on their last year of student use are falling apart but the Acer seem to be more rugged. He currently has two students lined up to test them out for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Orwig added that even the responsible students are having issues with the HP screens cracking. Mr. Bunch agreed and added that there have also been internal damage issues. Some of the damages he has been repairing are the students fault, and some are quality issues. Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve the Chromebook lease package for the 2023-24 school year as presented at \$30,600. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed by a 4-0 vote. Mrs. Orwig thanked Mr. Bunch for his work to save the school some money.

Superintendent Elliott requested that the board approve him to let bids for bus leases for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the superintendent to let bids for bus leases for the 2023-24 school year. Seconded by Ms. Holman. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

During the January 2023 Winter Board Retreat, the board and Superintendent Elliott designed short term and long term goals. Superintendent Elliott provided an overview of School Board Minutes
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the goals. Mr. West made a motion to approve the Annual Board Goals for the remainder of 2022-2023 and beyond as presented. Mr. Nagode seconded and the motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott shared his vision of improving all departments throughout the district and streamlining processes from paper to digital in addition to providing training on systems and soft skills for improved efficiency, effectiveness, and retention of employees. Consultant Kari Bush, Six Sigma Green Belt, is currently employed as one of our school nurses. Through this position she will provide a minimum of 2 days per month through the spring of 2024 working with the nursing, clerical, custodial, cafeteria, and transportation departments. She normally charges \$35-40 per hour but only requests \$32.00 per hour to provide these services for the school. Ms. Holman asked if she would be considered an employee or subcontractor. Mr. Elliott answered that she would continue as an employee but would be paid at a different rate when she is consulting. Ms. Holman made a motion to approve consultant Kari Bush as presented, seconded by Mr. West, motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott asked for feedback in regards to the main gym painting project that was completed already this school year and for any suggestions or changes for the upcoming painting project at the Athletic Complex. No action to be taken. Mr. Bunch asked if they would be painting the ceiling. Mr. Elliott responded that no, they would not be painting the ceiling because we do not want to cover up the beautiful woodwork. Mrs. Orwig stated that she has heard positive comments regarding the new paint in the SCHS gym. Mr. West mentioned that he has heard comments about the gym looking plain but that will change once the banners are hung back up. Mr. Elliott concluded by requesting that he be notified before spring break if there are any concerns, as the painting is to be completed during spring break.

Items for Next Meeting:

Possible approval of Auditor Contract; approval of Annual Seniority List. Mr. Nagode requested that they add an update on solar panels and how they are balancing out.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Nagode, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee performance, resignations, and employment at 7:12 p.m. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 17, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Amy Wise as Head High School Softball Coach for the 2022-23 season. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

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Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve Gary Frail as Head Junior High Track Coach for the 2022-23 season. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve John England as Volunteer Junior High Track Coach for the 2022-23 season. Seconded by Ms. Holman and approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Bob Rennick as Assistant High School Girls Track Coach for the 2022-23 season. Ms. Holman seconded. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve Dave Wallace as Assistant High School Boys Track Coach for the 2022-23 season. Seconded by Mr. West and motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Laura Lee as SCJSHS nurse for the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve Laurie Ellenberger as kitchen staff for the 2022-23 school year. Ms. Holman seconded and motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Riley Bowen and Raidon Bowen as student kitchen workers for the 2022-23 school year. Seconded by Ms. Homan and motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve K.C. Singer as SCES part time custodian for the 2022-23 school year. Mr. West seconded and motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve Katie Allen for the stipend of High School Band Director prorated at 50% for the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode to approve Mariah Kraft as Assistant High School Softball Coach for the 2022-23 school year pending paperwork. Ms. Holman seconded and motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Nagode made a motion to approve the retirement of Deborah Ford at the conclusion of the 2026-27 school year and to enter into the retirement incentive beginning with the 2023-24 school year, as prescribed in the 2022-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mr. Nagode, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion was approved 4-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Matt Nagode
Secretary

Approved 3/20/2023