

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

Regular Meeting – January 16, 2024

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Mike Bunch, IT; members of the community, and a member of the press. Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, and Mike McGovern, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal, attended virtually.

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.

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

- Approval of the December 18, 2023 Board Minutes;
- Approval of the November & December Elementary Activity Funds, December JH/HS Activity Funds, December Self-Insurance Fund, December Imprest Fund, and December Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the December LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$698.26, Stark County CUSD #100 \$149,447.88, Guardian \$350.19, Guardian \$3,098.28, Guardian \$576.06, Guardian \$454.31, US Postal Service \$500.00, Unland Insurance & Benefits \$190.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$174,898.14, Angie Roark \$175.00, Bill's Auto Body, LLC \$1,310.00, VISA \$391.71, VISA \$2,033.07, VISA \$607.66, VISA \$2,070.07, Amazon Capital Services \$9,550.64, Imprest Fund \$9,965.27.

Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of January bills. There were no questions on the bills. Motion was made by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the January bills of \$680,036.89. Motion was approved 6-0.

President Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to some of our outstanding SCES adult volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of our educators and learners. These volunteers provide support in various ways, such as copying, sorting, and preparing materials, helping with one-on-one student assessments for our younger learners, reading with small groups of students, and hosting classroom celebrations. Some of our volunteers were unable to attend tonight's meeting due to prior commitments, but we would still like to recognize them tonight. Tonya Joos, Paula Laub, Laurie Whitmore, Rachel Dietz, Annette Frank, and Denise Mercer bring much joy and support to the lives of our SCES learners and teachers. We appreciate all of the big and small things that you do here at SCES. Annette and Denise were present at the meeting.

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments.

Annual Mid-Year Board Retreat Report:

President Orwig provided an update from the January Board Retreat held earlier in the day. The board planned to have lunch with SCES students but due to the weather, there was no school. Mrs. Orwig expressed that she felt the board had a very productive retreat including a review of board goals; education, extra-curricular, and innovation lab discussions; review of staffing needs; a facilities update; gym project update provided by Dan from Farnsworth; an update on the progress on the new track; and Mr. Bunch, IT Director, provided an update on the touchscreen yearbook project. The board moved to executive session during the retreat to discuss the superintendent mid-year overview and the items up for approval later at the regular meeting.

Calendar Committee Report:

Superintendent Elliott provided an update from the Annual School Calendar Committee meeting that was held virtually on January 10th. This committee is made up of teachers, union representatives, administration, and board representatives. The committee discussed a calendar proposal prepared by Mr. Elliott, developed three additional options, and voted on the option that is up for a first reading later in tonight's meeting.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that our PLC work continues and is focused on individual teams using the Circles of Inquiry school improvement process to identify an instructional area for improvement, a strategy for implementation, and process and outcome goals to determine progress. Our Instructional Leadership Team is hosting a PLC for each team to share their work to identify successes and needs. Mrs. Terwilliger and Mrs. Bibb will be attending the BIST Leadership Conference later this week in Kansas City. Our "One School, One Story" Family Movie and Popcorn Night is scheduled for January 25th at 6:00 pm. Preschool Screenings are scheduled for Friday, March 1st at the Stark County Athletic Complex. The Fourth Grade Wax Museum is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th at 6:00 pm. Mrs. Bibb wrapped up her report with a Save the Date for the SCES Parents Club and Education Foundation Auction on March 9, 2024. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, was present virtually and shared that PLC Teams are starting the year off strong with discussions surrounding curriculum and instruction for the upcoming semester and next school year. We will continue our PLC work using the Cycles of Inquiry school improvement process to identify areas of need for teaching and learning. Our MTSS Team worked before break to develop a detailed Early Warning Sign screener for Stark County Junior Senior High School data that actively reviews students' attendance, discipline, and academics to monitor students at risk of early intervention. Our quarterly problem solving meetings will now include parent meetings with those students identified as high risk for academics, attendance, and behaviors. Prep for our Innovation Lab is underway with students identified and parents contacted. The plan is to start implementation and instruction by January 22nd. Mrs. Wise, Mr. Terwilliger, and Mrs. Acree will be attending the BIST Leadership Conference alongside the SCES staff members later this week in Kansas

City. We will host a Winterfest: Hairy for Hegwood Spirit Week from February 5th -9th with a culmination celebration at the home boys' basketball game on Friday, February 9th. Bradford 8th graders will visit SCHS on Thursday, January 18th, their parent and families are invited to attend the January 19th home boys' basketball game with free admission and an opportunity to tour the building. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott shared that we had a successful Faculty Workshop on Friday, January 5th as Educator/Author and University Professor, Tony Frontier, led a workshop on "The Five Levers of Learning." This is the next step in our Professional Learning Communities development as we continue to make transformational growth in our teaching and learning. Thank you to Michelle Morrissey and her kitchen staff for preparing our annual welcome back breakfast for faculty at the workshop. Another huge thank you to Michelle and her team who came in each of our eLearning days to provide meals for families. We welcomed two new staff members this semester, Ms. Sophia Elswick (Band/Choir/Music) and Mr. Andrew Collins (Junior High Science). We have kicked off our Hairy for Hegwood fundraising campaign for our own Katina Hegwood who is in a fight with cancer. We have a variety of fundraising activities set for the next several weeks. Please donate, participate, and share on all socials to show our community wide support. We have received our projected Solar Bus Grant budget and will ask tonight to let bids for a new bus barn to be installed at the elementary campus along with asphalt work on our bus lane. This is all grant funded. The Annual Calendar Committee met last week as mentioned in the reports earlier. A special thanks to our custodial/maintenance team that went above and beyond deep cleaning and preparing all facilities for the return of our students and staff after break. And for their intense labor during our eLearning snow days clearing the lots, sidewalks, and more. We want to formally thank Doug Parrott and the State Bank of Toulon for their generous donation of \$5,000 to support a touch screen device, software, and yearbook upload. This project through Rocket Alumni Service will provide a history of SCHS at your fingertips; including yearbooks, record boards, and more from the last 31 years of SCHS and for years to come. The Stark County Historical Society also raised nearly \$750 to go towards this project. Mr. Elliott ended his report with a budget update on expenditures through 50% of fiscal year 2024. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

Mrs. Orwig read the General Obligation Bond Resolution:

"Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$6,600,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024, of the School District for the purposes of paying claims against the School District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof."

Mr. West made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Price seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Stark County CUSD#100 received a Federal Electric Bus Grant valued over \$667,375 which includes a portion of the budget for facility upgrades. A new bus barn for bus

charging and storage will be constructed on the elementary campus along with asphalt work on the bus lane. The proposed contract with Farnsworth will provide the necessary specs, bid timelines, and oversight. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the Farnsworth contract for a new bus barn and asphalt work on the elementary campus as presented. Mr. Rediger seconded. Passed 6-0.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the proposed school calendar as voted on by the Calendar Committee for the 2024-25 school year.

2024:

- Teacher Institutes: Tuesday, August 13 and Wednesday, August 14, 2024
- First Day of School for Students: Thursday, August 15
- Early Release (1:45 pm) through Labor Day
- Labor Day (No School): Monday, September 2, 2024
- Evening Parent Conferences: Oct. 15 and 17
- Parent Conference Trade Day (No School): Friday, Oct. 18
- Election Day (No School): Tuesday, November 5
- Thanksgiving Break: November 27-29
- Winter Break: Friday, Dec. 20 – Friday Jan. 3

2025:

- Teacher Institute: Monday, January 6, 2025
- Students/Staff return from Winter Break: Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School): Monday, January 20
- Presidents Day (No School): Monday, February 17
- Teacher Institute: Friday, March 21, 2025
- Spring Break: Monday, April 14 – Monday, April 21 (Easter, April 20)
- Students Return from Spring Break: Tuesday, April 22
- Graduation: Sunday, May 11, 2025*
- Eighth Grade Promotion/Last Day: Wednesday, May 14, 2025*
- Last Day of School/SIP Day: Friday, May 23, 2025: 11:00 am Student Dismissal
- Emergency Days: April 14, 15; May 27, 28, 29
- SIP Days: Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Feb. 26, April 30, May 23
- Early Release Wednesdays (8:00 am – 1:45 pm)
- In Session: Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Casimir Pulaski Day

*Graduation and Eighth Grade Promotion dates to be approved at a later date.

This is the first reading of the school calendar, no action required.

The SCJSH curriculum guide recommendations from the PLC group were shared with the board during the retreat. The board was encouraged to review all suggestions for approval in February. No action taken.

Last year it was recommended by the bus lease companies that we move our bus bidding process earlier in the year to get the best available selection and pricing. This is an annual approval with the exception of moving it from March to January. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the superintendent to let bus bids for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Items for Next Meeting:

Possible Approval of Auditor Contract; Approval of 2024-25 Junior/Senior High School Curriculum Guide; Approval of Bus Bids; Illinois State Scholars Honors; State Bank of Toulon Honor; and ILMEA Arts Honors.

Executive Session:

Executive Session was held earlier in the day, during the Annual Board Retreat.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 18, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal, Michael McGovern at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve Sophia Elswick as Music Director for the 2024 Spring Musical. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 2/20/2024