

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

Regular Meeting – March 18, 2024

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, March 18, 2024, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Emily Leezer, Ann Orwig, Erin Price, Joseph Rediger, Brian Rewerts, Dane Richards, and Bruce West. No members were 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; Toby Williams, SCHS student; representatives from Core Construction and Farnsworth Group, Inc.; 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.

Before proceeding with the meeting, Superintendent Elliott asked for a moment of silence due to the recent losses in our community.

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

- Approval of the February 20, 2024 Board Minutes and March 6, 2024 Special Board Minutes;
- Approval of the February Elementary Activity Funds, January and February JH/HS Activity Funds; February Self-Insurance Fund, February Imprest Fund, and February Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the February LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$667.93, Guardian \$344.75, Guardian \$3,098.28, Guardian \$576.06, Guardian \$454.31, Stark County CUSD #100 \$144,436.87, Bound Book Scanning Inc. \$1,019.35, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, State Bank of Toulon \$6,382,683.26, State Bank of Toulon \$10,725.85, Stark County CUSD #100 \$160,780.88, State Bank of Toulon \$4,776.66, Michelle Loeffler \$437.50, Angela Roark \$675.00, Lori Grinnell \$400.00, VISA \$1,710.24, VISA \$981.83, VISA \$814.20, VISA \$224.09, Imprest Fund \$6,525.67.

Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of March bills. Mrs. Orwig asked if the check to Midland was for student memberships. Mr. Elliott explained that the check covered student use of the golf course throughout the summer and through the golf season. This is our second year at Midland and there are several other schools also using Midland's golf course. Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Rediger, to approve the March bills of \$395,166.86. Motion was approved 7-0.

President Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to Toby Williams. In January, Toby entered the Healthy Bodies, Healthy Soils Essay contest hosted by the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Toby competed against other students in the State of Illinois and subsequently won the state high school contest. His prize was to deliver his speech in the Capitol Rotunda during Soil Health Week and Soil Health Lobby Day. He spoke in front of key house and senate members, government agencies, prominent agricultural companies, and lobbyists who were there to advocate for soil health. Congratulations Toby.

Ms. McGann shared a quick back story. Earlier in the year, Toby was unsure if he wanted to take any ag classes or participate in FFA. He decided to give it a chance and has really taken off and been successful. She also congratulated Toby.

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments.

Stark County Education Foundation Report:

Superintendent Elliott shared that Foundation President, Crystal West, announced that the Foundation finalized the release of this year's senior scholarships on March 6th with an application deadline of mid-night on March 28th and presentation of awards at Senior Day on May 7th at 9:00 am at SCHS. They also finalized the amounts of each scholarship and have notified all donors of the April 12th deadline for choosing awardee(s). Information regarding the available scholarships was shared with senior parents at Senior Parent Night.

Education Committee Report:

President Orwig shared an overview of the Education Committee meeting held on March 6th. At the committee meeting, Superintendent Elliott presented the Strategic Planning Draft that was the result of the work done by multiple subcommittees through the Guiding Coalition starting last summer. The presentation and survey have now been released to the public for feedback. The survey will close on March 29th.

Mrs. Orwig added that FFA had reached out to her, asking if a board member would be available to participate in their officer interviews on March 27th.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that they held their spring Tier 3 team meetings and spent time last week working with families to develop and modify individual intervention plans for our students in need of academic intervention. They also met with teachers to review progress monitoring data for our Tier 2 students and make adjustments to the intervention schedule. We are in the midst of the IEP annual review season. This is a great opportunity for our special education staff to meet and review annual goals, adjust special education programming, and collaborate with families. As they have for the last several years, the Bureau, Henry, Stark Regional Office provided screeners for our Preschool Screenings that were held on March 1st. 23 preschoolers were screened for next year and we have 24 current preschoolers who will be moving to kindergarten next year. We are excited to hold Reading Bingo once again this year! Elementary students are hard at work reading and earning bingos. Bingos are

their tickets to the Bingo Celebration to be held on March 28th, the last day of school before spring break. Thanks to all who attended the Parents' Club Dinner and Auction, it was great to be able to hold the event back in person this year. Mrs. Kunkel planned an engaging Family Literacy Night this month using Title I Family Involvement funds. Mrs. Colgan is a finalist for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching and will have a panel visit on March 27th as part of the final selection process. Congratulations Jackie! There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that they are preparing for SAT/PSAT, IAR, and ISA testing that will take place when we return from Spring Break. All 6-12 students participated in a full day of test prep and/or Senior needs at our last February SIP day, which was a positive experience noted by both our students and staff. The HS plans to provide the Juniors with a mock test before we leave for break to help ease their nerves before they take the SAT on April 18. We hosted our first Senior Parent Night to attempt to be proactive in communication to all Senior parents with details on graduation, scholarship opportunities, and senior requirements, including FAFSA. This was a great opportunity for our senior parents to network with each other. We will welcome our BIST coach, Nick Oddo, this Wednesday for our quarterly BIST visit. We plan to send a small group of teachers to BIST Vision Team training in April. We hosted our Semester 1 Honor Roll Breakfast, welcoming over 150 students to share a donut (or two) with peers to celebrate their Semester 1 success. Students are completing the 5 Essentials Survey to provide us with much needed feedback data to guide our school improvement. We welcomed back the JH Solo & Ensemble Contest on March 15th, this year located at the junior high campus. Thank you to Angie Roark for her assistance with this event. There were no questions for Ms. McGann. Mrs. Orwig commented that she had heard positive feedback on the SAT prep.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott shared that after a productive SIP day with our faculty, the Guiding Coalition shared presentations of our Strategic Planning Draft to all faculty, staff, board, and community members at various forums. We have shared the draft plan on our website and Facebook page with a link to provide feedback. The survey link will close on March 29 and we encourage all stakeholders to participate. We will review all feedback and finalize our plan during our April SIP day, then present it to the board/community in the summer prior to adopting our three-year plan beginning this fall. We will be interviewing for our next elementary principal this week with two rounds of interviews scheduled in hopes of hosting a special board meeting on Monday, March 25th for approval. We held three focus groups last week with faculty, staff, and a select parent panel to design a profile of our next elementary principal, which will help guide us through our search. The track project continues, with fencing and curb work finishing up this week. Asphalt work will begin in late April. We held our bid openings for all subcontractor bids for the new gym project; they are up for approval tonight. Thank you to the leadership of the Elementary Parents Club and Education Foundation on a very successful live auction held on March 9, 2024. It was great to be back in person after the pandemic, and the generosity of the community continues to shine. Senior Honors Day is set for 9:00 am, Tuesday, May 7th; Graduation is Sunday, May 12th at 1:00 pm; and 8th Grade Promotion is Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 pm. The last day of school for all students and staff is Friday, May 24th, with an 11:00 am student dismissal. The superintendent's report was wrapped up with a budget update. No questions.

Unfinished Business:

On March 12, 2024, we hosted our subcontractor bid opening for the new gym project. Farnsworth and CORE have provided an overview and recommendation. The bids came in lower than expected, so we were able to add in some extra sound baffles and move a few tasks from our maintenance director back to the contractors. The project is scheduled to start in early April 2024 with a potential completion date of early 2025. Mr. Rediger made a motion to approve the gym project bids as presented. Mr. Richards seconded and motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

In our continued upgrades to all HVAC systems, Ruyle has provided an estimate for replacing the steam traps at the junior high for better efficiency of the boiler. All upgrades may qualify for Ameren Incentives. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the steam trap replacement at the junior high for \$6,527 by Ruyle Mechanical as presented. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Next was a review of the annual renewal for our library sharing resource. This may be the last year with this vendor due to the dramatic increase in cost. Mrs. Kelly is researching other options. Mr. West made a motion to approve a one-year renewal with Resource Sharing Alliance as presented for the 2024-25 school year. Mrs. Leezer seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented the annual renewal of M and M Lawn Service for April 1 – November 1, 2024 to maintain lawn care of our football field and surrounding property at a rate of \$50/hour. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve M and M Lawn Service as presented. Mr. Rewerts seconded and motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Elliott has worked with the principals and BIST Leadership Teams, reaching an agreement for professional development, training, and support for the 2024-25 school year. We will utilize Title I and Title II monies, as we have in the past, to fund this ongoing implementation of BIST. An overview of the BIST contract was provided to the board members in their board packets, with a total cost of \$23,000. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the BIST contract for the 2024-25 school year at \$23,000 as presented. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott presented an overview of this year's snow removal processes as provided by Maintenance Director Bohm. The board had asked for feedback on this past winter. Mr. Bohm's report stated that it takes around 6 hours to clear snow from both campuses. The hardest part was the timing in making sure both campuses were clear in time for school, depending on what time it started to snow and how heavy the snow was. We will need to purchase some parts for plow repairs and a bigger, newer plow would be great in the future. One issue was when we got larger amounts of snow, it was difficult to keep snow out of the way. A tractor would be beneficial in moving large piles of snow to make room for the plow trucks to push more snow. Another item that would be beneficial is a larger salt spreader that can be attached to the back of the plow trucks. Overall the process is not too bad at all. Mr. Rediger asked if the board ever contracted out the snow removal. Mr. Rediger was not yet on the board last year when the snow plow

trucks were purchased, so Mr. Elliott explained that this was our first year not contracting for snow removal. There were no bids for snow removal for this past year. Mr. West added that if we did receive any bids, they would probably be a lot higher due to the curbs in the new parking lot as well as the recent expansion of the junior high parking lot. Mrs. Orwig commented that the future purchase of a tractor would be beneficial for both snow removal in the winter and other maintenance uses in the summer.

Next was an annual action item to approve the hiring of an adult summer technology support staff person to assist Director Bunch with Chromebook updating and preparation for the new school year. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the posting of one summer technology support staff position for summer 2024. Seconded by Mr. Rewerts and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott shared that due to retirements and resignations there are no RIF's or non-renewals of certified staff for the 2023-24 school year. No action taken.

Items for Next Meeting:

Possible Approval of Auditor Contract; Approval of Solar Grant bids; Possible Approval of IESA Annual Contracts; Possible PRESS Updates; JFL Donation Recognition; and Possible Art/Music Student Recognition.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, non-renewals, employee performance, future employment of personnel and resignations at 6:35 p.m. Motion was approved 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 20, 2024, Not for Release. Motion was approved 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 6, 2024, Not for Release. Motion was approved 7-0.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Dusty Browning as Head High School Boys Basketball Coach, effective at the conclusion of the 2023-24 season.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Kane Mastin as Head High School Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-25 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Ashton Forstrom as Junior High Girls Basketball Coach for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Rediger seconded and motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Karen Roberts, kitchen staff, effective March 7, 2024.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.
Motion was approved 7-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 4/15/2024