

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

**Regular Meeting – February 20, 2024**

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Tuesday, February 20, 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; Megan McGann, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mike McGovern, Jr./Sr. High School Assistant Principal; Rebecca Lane, Unit Clerical/Payroll Clerk; Mike Bunch, IT; Doug Parrott, State Bank of Toulon; Dan Steider, Farnsworth Group, Inc.; 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 Mr. Richards, to approve the consent calendar. Items approved under the consent calendar were:

- Approval of the January 16, 2024 Board Minutes;
- Approval of the January Elementary Activity Funds, January Self-Insurance Fund, January Imprest Fund, and January Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the January LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$824.80, Guardian \$342.16, Guardian \$3,098.28, Guardian \$576.06, Guardian \$454.31, Stark County CUSD #100 \$147,915.55, Ince's Towing Inc. \$315.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$162,487.17, Angie Roark \$350.00, VISA \$402.54, VISA \$897.10, VISA \$377.84, VISA \$249.00, Amazon Capital Services \$3,941.39, Imprest Fund \$6,689.85.

Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of February bills. Mrs. Orwig asked about the amount being paid to Byrne and Jones for the new high school track. Mr. Elliott explained that the bill will vary each month based on the progress made which varies based on the weather. Mr. West asked about the check payable to the City of Toulon for the lot at the new building. Mr. Elliott clarified that this was payment for a portion of the new parking lot that the city put in, but that will also be used by the school for parking at sporting events. Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Price, to approve the February bills of \$565,342.06. Motion was approved 6-0.

President Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to Doug Parrott and the State Bank of Toulon. Bank President Parrott and his team at the State Bank of Toulon continue to go above and beyond supporting the school district and our entire community. The State Bank of Toulon continues to support all district needs including our FFA program, arts, athletics, Education Foundation, golf outings, trivia nights, pancake breakfasts, fundraising dinners, and more. Recently, Mr. Parrott and his executive board approved a \$5,000 donation to support our new Alumni Touchscreen Project that will provide all visitors and alumni digital access to all things Stark County

High School. This project could not be possible without the direct support of the State Bank of Toulon. Thank you, Mr. Parrott!

Mr. Parrott commented that it is a two-way street between the bank and the school, and that they appreciate the school's business. He feels that it is important to support our local school so that we do not lose it, "We're #AllIn."

**Visitor Comments:**

Dan Steider from Farnsworth Group spoke briefly, giving an update regarding the new high school gym project. The project is out for bid. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, they will host a pre-bid meeting on site and on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the bids will be opened. Mr. Elliott asked Mr. Steider if the budget continues to be on pace, to which Mr. Steider responded yes. Mr. Elliott has shared the board's feedback with Farnsworth and kept the board up to date throughout the planning process. Mrs. Orwig thanked Mr. Steider for the update.

There were no other visitor comments.

**Administrative Reports:**

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that teacher summative evaluations are almost completed. We have a number of phenomenal teachers who excel at curriculum and instruction, but who also are masters at the soft skills or intangibles of education. We are continuing to coach up teachers in their areas of need. We are approaching our spring assessment window. Our IAR window is scheduled to begin March 18<sup>th</sup>, with fifth graders scheduled to take the Illinois Science Assessment during the same testing window. We have one student taking the ACCESS test. A special thanks to Mrs. Wilke, who is administering the ACCESS test to this student at his request. We have had several energetic activities in the last month – 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Parade, Hairy for Hegwood Spirit Days, and Valentine's Day Parties! Our office and nursing staff attended a School Support Workshop at the ROE last week for legal updates, student records, and other school office requirements. Betsy from B Framed Photography is taking spring photos at SCES on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Kunkel and her team are hosting Family Literacy Night on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. A reminder to save the date for the SCES Parents Club and Education Foundation Auction scheduled for March 9, 2024. This is the first in person auction since pre-COVID. Congratulations to Marci Jett and team for receiving an ISBE "Those Who Excel" Award for Excellence in Education, and to Jackie Colgan, who is a finalist for the Golden Apple Award, Early Childhood Teacher of the Year. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, started her update by welcoming new staff member, Cole Hartley. Mr. Hartley has officially rolled out our Innovation Lab with up to 13 students in seats throughout the day. Students have already recovered multiple credits under his supervision and motivation. Ms. McGann pointed out to the board, that the class size changes on their board report are partially due to students being reclassified to their appropriate grade level thanks to credit recovery. Course request sheets have been released to all incoming high school students and current high school students for the 2024-25 school year. Counselors continue to meet individually with students to discuss high school requirements and the best course options for successful graduation. We will recognize two junior high school

teachers, Kaleena Conrad (Award of Meritorious Service) and Niki Kelly (Award of Special Recognition), at our next district SIP day for being awarded 2024 ISBE "Those Who Excel" Awards for Excellence in Education. Marci Jett and her team (Award of Special Recognition) will also be recognized for their amazing work throughout the district. Junior high and high school students will participate in a day of growth mindset, goal setting, and focus for our February SIP Day. This is in preparation for upcoming SAT and IAR testing in April. We have celebrated all winter sport 8th Grade Nights and Senior Nights, recognizing all winter sport athletes, cheerleaders, and band members. We hosted a very successful, community wide Winterfest surrounding Katina Hegwood and her children. This boost each winter allows us to revisit how powerful and impactful we can be as a school community. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott formally congratulated Mrs. Bibb on her new position as Superintendent of Cambridge School District for the 2024-25 school year. We have been so fortunate to have Mrs. Bibb's leadership at Stark County Elementary School over the past nine years. She will be difficult to replace and extremely missed but we also could not be more proud to see her take the next step in her career as a leader in education. Congratulations Jenna. We are extremely proud of our district and school community for their efforts during our "Hairy for Hegwood" Campaign. We will continue to collect donations on our GoFundMe account and at the State Bank of Toulon through March 1, 2024. This event not only supported Katina Hegwood and her family, it provided purposeful events to model our mission for our students and staff to experience personal growth and increase social responsibility. It also modeled the pillars of our PHEARCE philosophy through Humility, Energy and Relationships in the face of adversity. Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors for making this event possible. We have done extensive research and planning through our Guiding Coalition Work, which will lead to a District Strategic Plan. Our February 28th SIP Day will provide time for teachers to dig deeper into the planning to create a very rough draft of potential goals and actions steps. This will then be shared with our parents and students at a community forum to gather input throughout March and April. All feedback will then be compiled for use by the committees to further develop our draft strategic plan during our late April SIP Day. The final strategic plan will be board approved in July after additional feedback in May and June from stakeholders. In order to get to this stage, we had to spend time as a staff researching, brainstorming and getting comfortable with the change process. We are excited to create focus groups made up of students, parents and staff in the upcoming weeks. In addition, we will create surveys to gather additional feedback and other avenues to create the most comprehensive strategic plan for success. As mentioned, the final strategic plan will be up for board approval in July, prior to the start of the new school year. We have received an additional \$63,000 in funding for our Solar/Electric Bus Federal Grant due to another school district stepping away, this moves our total grant to \$730,461. All bids for our project will be up for award in March. The additional funds can be used for more asphalt on our bus lane. A pre-bid meeting for our gym project will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> with a bid date of March 12<sup>th</sup> led by Farnsworth and CORE. Our track project is well underway with 95 percent of all concrete work, grading and fencing to be completed by the end of this month. The grandstand bleachers will also be installed. Once the asphalt plant opens in the spring, things will move forward with the laying of the track. The budget update shows that we are on pace as normal. We have now received our bond money, so that can be used

towards the track and gym projects. A transfer between funds will need to be made at a later date due to some funds spent before the bond money was received.

Mr. Richards asked what the format would be for the public forum, verbal or written. Mr. Elliott responded that there will be multiple formats and that he is open to suggestions from the board.

**Unfinished Business:**

Superintendent Elliott presented an overview of the proposed school calendar as approved 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 is 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 21; May 27, 28, 29, 30
- 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.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Calendar as presented. Mr. Rediger seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott explain that this will be our second season of IHSA Bass Fishing; we have worked with the union to assess the level of commitment and comparison to other stipend positions and have agreed upon the stipend grouping as presented in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In addition, Pursuant to Public Act 103-515, the State of Illinois has created a new formula to calculate the minimum salary for teachers going forward which is released by September 30th of each year for the next year. The

mandated minimum salary for 2024-25 with TRS benefits is \$41,188. This is a \$418 increase from our CBA minimum salary for 2024-25. This MOU represents the increase in the base salary and the cascading effect throughout the salary matrix, benefiting all certified staff under the CBA at an estimated overall increase of an additional \$35,000 for 2024-25. Mr. West made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Teachers Association and Board of Education adding Bass Fishing to the stipend schedule and making the Teacher Minimum Salary adjustment for FY25 as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

SCJSH curriculum guide recommendations were shared during the January Winter Board Retreat. A link to the final proposed guide was shared with the board for a weekend review. Ms. McGann provided a quick update on the changes. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the Stark County Junior Senior High School Curriculum Guide for the 2024-25 school year as presented. Mrs. Price seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, we held transportation bid openings with three companies present, for our 2024-25 bus lease contracts. Two of the three companies provided bids. An overview of the bids was provided to the board members in their board packet. Mr. Elliott recommended, in order to create competition and compare services, to award Midwest Transit 3 bus leases (65, 14, and 21 + 1 passenger) and award Midwest Bus Sales 1 bus lease (65 passenger). Currently all buses are leased through Midwest Bus Sales; Mr. West asked if awarding to Midwest Transit meant getting a different brand of bus. Mr. Elliott confirmed that was correct. Mr. Rediger made a motion to award Midwest Transit 3 bus leases and Midwest Bus Sales 1 bus lease over three years as presented. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

**New Business:**

The Annual Seniority list has been reviewed by the HR department and approved by the Teachers Association. This is an annual board acceptance in the event of a reduction in force and will be on display at the unit office. We do not anticipate a reduction in force for the current school year. Mr. West made a motion to accept the annual seniority list as presented. Mrs. Price seconded. Passed 6-0.

Mr. Elliott shared that with the conclusion of our partnership to outsource our field striping, he feels that it is fiscally responsible to purchase our own field line striping machine that will pay for itself in 1.5 seasons compared to the cost of the service in the past. We have received multiple quotes and recommend the purchase of the field line striping machine from Sherwin Williams at a cost of \$3,332.94. All field striping will be done by our maintenance/custodial staff. Sherwin Williams will also service the machine. Paint will be purchased by the district, which is the same as in prior years. This purchase will also allow us to stripe our practice field, baseball and softball fields, and more going forward. Mr. West made a motion to approve the purchase of the field line striping machine from Sherwin Williams as presented. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

Possible Approval of Auditor Contract; Approval of Solar Grant bids; Illinois State Scholars Honors, Revised Intergovernmental Agreement with Galva School District; and possible approval of employment.

**Executive Session:**

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Rediger, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, performance, resignations, retirements, and employment at 6:33 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2024, Not for Release. Motion was approved 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Susan Gibbs as Art Director for the 2024 Spring Musical. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve Kane Mastin as Teacher Mentor for the 2024 spring semester. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Sara Nowlan as High School Cheerleading Coach, effective at the conclusion of the 2023-24 season.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Sandra Carter as High School Cheerleading Coach for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Cole Hartley as Junior High Lunch Supervisor for the 2024 spring semester. Seconded by Mr. Rediger. Passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Jimmy Brown as Bass Fishing Coach for the 2024 spring season. Mr. West seconded and motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Gary Frail as Junior High Track Volunteer Coach for the 2024 spring season. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Alexis Martinez as a Student Custodial Worker. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Jenna Bibb, Elementary School Principal, at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

Mrs. Leezer announced the retirement of Linda Melton, Social Studies Teacher, at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Trey Swanson, High School Social Studies Teacher, SC News Sponsor, and Assistant High School Football Coach, at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Jane Murray as kitchen staff, effective immediately.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Chad Gardner as Volunteer High School Softball Assistant Coach for the 2024 spring season, pending background check. Seconded by Mr. West, motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer to approve Kevin Wise as Volunteer High School Softball Assistant Coach for the 2024 spring season, pending background check. Mr. Rediger seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Ann Orwig  
President

Emily Leezer  
Secretary

Approved 3/18/2024