

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

Regular Meeting – May 15, 2023

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, May 15, 2023, 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. All members were present. 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; John Leezer, Leezer Insurance Agency, students and 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 April 26, 2023 special board minutes;
- Approval of the April Elementary Activity Funds, April JH/HS Activity Funds, April Self-Insurance Fund, April Imprest Fund, and March and April Treasurer's Reports;
- Approval of the April LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$413.04, Stark County CUSD #100 \$147,207.26, Guardian \$336.05, Guardian \$2,946.78, Guardian \$528.31, Guardian \$398.87, Headon & Sons, Inc. \$10,326.37, Illinois Principals Association \$275.00, Stark County CUSD #100 \$163,085.85, Mary Meaker \$300.00, U.S. Postal Service \$500.00, VISA \$1,133.62, VISA \$181.73, VISA \$694.53, Agaves Restaurant \$875.00, LaGondola Spaghetti House \$535.00, Imprest Fund \$10,042.07.

Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of May bills. Mrs. Price questioned the bill for a hospital tutor and whether it should have been billed through District #150. Mr. Elliott responded that would have to be something to look in to. Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the May bills of \$172,626.30. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to the 2023 Illinois State Envirothon Champions: Colby Stotler, Chelsey Stotler, Logan Goerks, Garrett Bruecks, and Katelynn Allen. These members of the Stark County High School FFA program competed in the 2023 Illinois State Envirothon and took home 1st place in the FFA division and 3rd place in the non-FFA division. We are so proud of these students and Ms. Wilkinson.

President Orwig presented a second Pride and Excellence Recognition to the 2023 IESA Track State Qualifiers: Braxxten Gibson (7GB 100M, 7GB 200M, 7GB 400M, & 7GB Long Jump), Darilis Knobloch (7GG 1600M), Patrick Peterson (7GB Shot Put, & 7GB Discus), Hallie Newton (7GG Discus, & 8GG 4x200M), Kenna Sparks (8GG Long Jump, & 8GG 4x200M), Abby Nagode (8GG 4x200M), Taylor Price (8GG 4x200M), and Anna Nagode (8GG 4x200M Alternate). We are proud of these students' efforts and teamwork that lead to their qualifications for the IESA State Track Finals.

The 7th grade boys track team won the 2023 IESA Sectional Championship! Mrs. Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to Bentley Gibson, Landen Quart, Will Denton, Braxxten Gibson, Cash Kinsella, Ethan Hess, Hunter Ely, Isaac Macke, Jackson Knoblauch, Louis O'Bryant, Micah Stubbs, and Patrick Peterson. The team was led by Coach Gary Frail and Assistant Coach John England. Coach Frail shared a few words about a very good season and looks forward to watching from the stands next year.

Another Pride and Excellence Recognition was presented by Mrs. Orwig to our student workers. We have had the honor of hosting student custodial workers throughout the 2022-23 school year. They have been a tremendous addition to the custodial team. Their efforts throughout last summer and the school year were instrumental in our move to the new high school. Thank you: Jacob Best, Colby Stotler, Hayley Gillam, Jordan McCauley, Jack Colgan, Paige Rewerts, Daniel Kieser, Kylee Frisby, Andrew Hurst, and Sawyer Newton.

Visitor Comments:

Mr. John Ballentine, a Toulon United Methodist Church Trustee, addressed the board stating that he had contacted Mr. Elliott asking him for assistance from 6-8 students. Mr. Elliott helped them out tremendously by lining up students to meet at the church and move furniture. The church members greatly appreciated the students' help.

Policy Committee Report:

Board Secretary, Mrs. Leezer presented an overview of the PRESS Policy updates that are up for board approval tonight. PRESS Issue #111 addresses a more extensive check in to new hires' backgrounds, specifically related to sexual misconduct allegations. It also addresses accelerated advancements for students and book/library media challenges. There were no questions for Mrs. Leezer.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared a few highlights from her monthly board report. Our Instructional Leadership Team was featured in a recording by the creator of the Cycles of Inquiry school improvement process. This is another opportunity for us to make our practice public through the LEAD Grant. Preschool acceptance letters have been sent home. We currently have 43 students on our roster and will continue to advertise and screen students. Our capacity is 55 students, so we have 12 spots open at this time. We would like to thank our SCES Parents' Club for the wonderful treats they provided during Teacher Appreciation, and for the funding they provided for many of our field trips. Our 5th graders will visit the junior high this week where Ms. McGann plans to welcome them, take them on a tour of the building, and host collaborative engagement activities. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, reported that over \$85,000 in scholarships was awarded to our Senior class at our Senior Awards ceremony this last week. Congratulations to our Class of 2023 on their many accomplishments! There were 18 Juniors inducted into the National Honor Society on Tuesday, May 9th. We are excited to see the upcoming leadership from the Class of 2024. SAT, PSAT, ISA, and 6th-10th grade End of Year STAR testing is finishing up. Junior high teachers are seeing major growth in their ELA/Math scores for the year, showing that their hard work is paying off! At graduation yesterday, we recognized 51 (hopefully 54 by June 30th) Seniors in the Class of 2023, with 7 Valedictorians. We are incredibly proud of this Senior class and thank them for their many contributions to Stark County. Congratulations to our FFA Team for winning 1st place in the FFA division of the state Envirothon contest and third place overall. Nine of our junior high track student athletes competed at the IESA state competition this weekend in East Peoria. We are looking forward to supporting our high school girls track at State, high school boys baseball in Regionals, and high school boys track at Sectionals. We recognized all of our teachers and instructional staff with a Teacher Appreciation Week on May 1st through the 5th. Thank you to our junior high and high school parents, Bo/Gar Enterprises, and State Bank of Toulon for their donations and recognitions for our amazing teaching staff at Stark County Junior/Senior High School. Over 150 Stark County students attended Prom at Midland Golf Club. The venue, meal, and setting provided a great night for all. Thank you to Ms. Chapman and Mrs. Wilkinson for all of your hard work to make this a successful event. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott started his update by congratulating the graduating Class of 2023. They have left a legacy of excellence and we could not be prouder of them. We want to officially welcome our new board members to their first regular meeting of their tenure. Welcome Mr. Dane Richards and Mr. Joe Rediger. Our Guiding Coalition work is underway as we create a new 3-5 year strategic plan for the 2024-25 school year. Since our last board meeting, the Guiding Coalition has hosted a staff input meeting to gather feedback on the process and our mission and vision. An exit meeting was also held with our graduating seniors for feedback on the mission and vision statements and if it aligns to where we are today. Next, we will hold additional staff feedback meetings this week at both campuses before we begin planning summer subcommittee work. Congratulation to our spring sports who have earned great success this year with both baseball and softball increasing their number of victories compared to last year. Boys and girls track have had great success. The junior high 7th grade boys are Sectional Champs, advancing to the State Finals with numerous individuals also advancing to state. The high school girls track team is also sending numerous athletes to the IHSA State Finals. Good luck to all athletes as they finish up their spring seasons. We want to thank our teachers and staff during the month of teacher/staff appreciation for creating the Ultimate Learning Environment for our students. We have noticed a great uptick in positive energy this May compared to this time last year. This is evident in our continued culture shift that starts with our incredible teachers and staff. Mr. Elliott concluded with a budget update on expenditures through 83.3% of fiscal year 2023. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Elliott shared an overview of the PRESS Policy Updates from PRESS Issue 111 with the majority of the updates focused on the new legislation for screening new hires for sexual misconduct allegations/charges. The other noteworthy change is that each district is now required to adopt the policy update for acceleration for 2023-24 which requires automatic acceleration for any student meeting or exceeding on local/state assessments for high school beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Parents may opt students out of acceleration. The Policy Committee reviewed the policy updates prior to the board meeting. Automatic acceleration can be difficult at smaller schools that don't have the ability to offer as many class options as bigger schools. We can use our Guiding Coalition to help plan for these future changes. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the PRESS Policy Updates from PRESS Issue 111. Seconded by Mr. Richards. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott presented the summer project list created by Maintenance Director Bob Bohm. Mr. Rewerts asked if cleaning up the baseball batting cage area could be added to the ambitious list and Mr. Elliott responded that it was already in discussion. Mrs. Price asked if the hole in the floor at the athletic complex had been repaired yet. Mr. Elliott confirmed that the repair had already been completed. Mr. West made a motion to approve the 2023 Maintenance Summer Project List as presented. Mrs. Leezer seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Orwig reviewed the Board Committee assignments that were assigned with the input of the board members. Mr. Rediger made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Board Committee assignments as presented. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Committees are as follows:

Building & Finance: Mr. West (chair), Mrs. Orwig, Mr. Rediger, Mr. Richards
Negotiations & Policy: Mrs. Leezer (chair), Mrs. Orwig, Mrs. Price, Mr. Rediger
Education & Extracurricular: Mrs. Orwig (chair), Mrs. Price, Mr. Rewerts, Mr. West
Henry Stark Special Education District Governing Board: Mrs. Leezer
Stark County Education Foundation: Mr. Rewerts, Mr. Richards

New Business:

John Leezer from Leezer Insurance Agency presented an overview and premiums for fiscal year 2024 Property, Casualty, and Workman's Compensation coverages. This includes a recent review of all properties including new construction and renovations. The insurance policies renew July 1st. Mr. Leezer thanked the board for their long-term business as he has been assisting the school since 1992. Board President, Mrs. Orwig asked Mr. Elliott if he felt comfortable with the amount of insurance proposed. Mr. Elliott confirmed that he did and that he and Mr. Leezer had talked in detail regarding the insurance renewal. Mr. West asked if the student accident policy was still included and Mr. Leezer confirmed that it was. He then asked if it was utilized, and it is. Mrs. Orwig thanked Mr. Leezer for the 2-year side by side comparison of rates. Mr. West made a motion to approve the Property, Casualty, and Workman's Compensation Insurance Renewal for fiscal year 2024. Mr. Rewerts seconded the motion and it passed with a 6-0 vote. Mrs. Leezer abstained.

Mr. Elliott presented the tentative budget amendment proposal for fiscal year 2023 due to additional interest incurred in Funds 60 and 70. Since we are amending, the auditors recommended that we reallocate some funds in Fund 40 as well. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the tentative amended budget for fiscal year 2023 as presented and to place the tentative budget on display for the next 30 days, hold a public hearing on the fiscal year 2023 tentative amended budget and approve the final amended budget at the June 20, 2023 board meeting. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Bradford for IESA Athletic Participation. In April, the Bradford Board of Education approved this agreement that allows Bradford students to participate in Stark County junior high athletics. Mr. Richards made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Bradford for junior high athletic participation for 2023-24. Mr. Rewerts seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

ISBE is requiring an addendum to the Intergovernmental Agreement with United Township CTE Center to meet the requirements outlined in Section 256.210 Cooperative Agreements, Submission and Criteria for approval contained in Part 256 Career and Technical Education. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the addendum to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the United Township Area CTE Center. Seconded by Mrs. Price. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Annually the board approves the Consolidated District Plan for our Title I, II, and IV funding for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Bibb presented an overview of what is included in the 2023-24 Consolidated District Plan. Mr. West made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Leezer and the 2023-24 Consolidated District Plan was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Principal Bibb and Principal McGann presented their summer learning plans, a requirement of ESSER III stimulus funding. Instead of summer school, the elementary school will be offering summer tutoring. For the junior high, summer learning is only offered to students who are not advancing to the next grade and this year there were none. High school summer learning is offered for students to catch up, not for them to try to get ahead on classes. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb or Ms. McGann. The ESSER III Grant was previously approved so there was no action taken.

Mr. Elliott presented the annual agreement with Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. for audit services. Mrs. Orwig asked if the cost was listed. The cost for the fiscal year 2023 audit is listed as \$19,110. Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve the contract agreement with Gorenz and Associates, Ltd. for the fiscal year 2023 audit. Seconded by Mr. Richards. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

We received three quotes for a new tractor mower for the junior/senior high school campus. The purchase of a new tractor mower is one of our current approved board goals. Mr. Elliott and Mr. Bohm recommend the purchase of a 2023 John Deere Z920M ZTrak 60" deck with TWheels with a \$0.00 lease through June 30th and full payment due July 1, 2023 using the fiscal year 2024 budget. Mrs. Price made a motion to approve the purchase of the mower. Motion was seconded by Mr. West and approved by a 7-0 vote.

As a part of our board goals, we have received numerous quotes for custom chairs for use at the Stark County High School gym athletic events. The first row of the bleachers can be folded in and the chairs would be set up in its place to be used by the home and visiting teams. The bleachers at the athletic complex do not fold in a way that would make this possible there, so we are looking at only purchasing chairs for the high school gym. Mr. Elliott made a recommendation to approve the purchase of 50 chairs from Athletic Seating, 40 for use in the high school gym and 10 for use at the board of education meetings. Mr. Rewerts asked if the use of the chairs for athletic events would create more space on the sidelines. Mr. Elliott responded that the chairs were more for the comfort of the athletes and cosmetic appeal. Mr. West made a motion to approve the purchase of 50 chairs at a cost of \$8,150.00 using the fiscal year 2024 budget. Mrs. Leezer seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Elliott stated that we need to approve the annual request to let bids for the 2023-24 school year for bread, milk, Rebel Reporter publishing, and trash pickup. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the superintendent to let bids for the 2023-24 school year for bread, milk, Rebel Reporter, and trash pickup. Seconded by Mr. West. Approved 7-0.

We have been working with our architect, Farnsworth, to use the FY24 Health Life Safety Funds to replace the junior high main roof. We are asking for permission to let bids for the roof project. Farnsworth will host a pre-bid meeting including specs for the project, and the bid opening prior to the June board meeting. Mr. Rediger made a motion to approve the superintendent to let bids for the junior high roof replacement. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott presented the final school calendar for 2022-23 to be submitted to the ROE after the last day of school. The final school calendar was updated with the removal of potential emergency days that were not used and the addition of one eLearning day used on February 16th. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve the final school calendar for the 2022-23 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Leezer. Approved 7-0.

Mr. Elliott suggested the date of Monday, July 17, 2023 to hold the Annual Summer Board Retreat. This would be a meeting from 8:00-12:00, lunch at noon, and regular board meeting to follow at 1:30. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to approve Monday, July 17, 2023 for the Annual Summer Board Retreat. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

The board discussed attending the 2023 Triple I Conference in mid-November of 2023. Pending some possible schedule conflicts, Mr. Rewerts made a motion to approve the attendance of the board and superintendent to the 2023 Triple I Conference including lodging, conference admissions, and accommodations, if at least 5 board members are able to attend. Mrs. Price seconded. Motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Items for Next Meeting:

Budget Amendment Public Hearing; Approval of FY23 Budget Amendment; Award of Bread, Milk, Rebel Reporter, and Trash Pickup Bids; Award of the Junior High Roof Replacement Bid. REMINDER: The June meeting will be held on TUESDAY, June 20th.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mr. Rewerts, seconded by Mr. Rediger, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, non-renewals, employee performance, employment and resignations at 7:08 p.m. Motion was approved 7-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:33 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 April 17, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Colby Wall as Bass Fishing Coach for the 2023 season. Mrs. Orwig seconded and motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the non-certified pay increases for the 2023-24 school year as presented. Mr. West seconded. Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote. Mr. West abstained.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Lori Grinnell, SCES Title I Aide/Rtl Interventionalist effective May 26, 2023.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Rewerts, to approve an addendum for a two-year contract extension through the 2025-26 school year for Mike Bunch, Technology Services Director, as presented. Motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Amy Wise as Junior High Head Softball Coach for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Orwig seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Kelsey Berchtold as a summer tutor for 2023. Mr. Rewerts seconded and the motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Rewerts, to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Motion was approved 7-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 6/20/2023