

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

Regular Meeting – November 20, 2023

The Stark County Community Unit School District #100 Board of Education met Monday, November 20, 2023, at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Emily Leezer, Ann Orwig, Dane Richards, and Bruce West. Erin Price, Joseph Rediger, and Brian Rewerts 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; student athletes from the Lady Rebels Cross Country team, 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 6:02 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 October 16, 2023 board minutes;
- Approval of the October Elementary Activity Funds, October JH/HS Activity Funds, October Self-Insurance Fund, October Imprest Fund, and October Treasurer's Report;
- Approval of the October LEA checks as follows: City of Wyoming \$833.56, Guardian \$346.06, Guardian \$3,046.90, Guardian \$576.50, Guardian \$471.81, Stark County CUSD #100 \$146,831.50, State Bank of Toulon \$2,000,000.00, Bill's Auto Body \$5,170.35, Stark County CUSD #100 \$183,576.66, Marilyn Ely \$234.00, Angie Roark \$325.00, Scott Paxson \$7,000.00, Shirley Striping \$1,750.00, River City Title \$500.00, VISA \$200.00, VISA \$1,300.60, VISA \$1,403.38, VISA \$1,323.79, IESA \$75.00, Unland Insurance and Benefits \$596.00, Amazon Capital Services \$4,661.21, Imprest Fund \$7,200.58.

Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the approval of November bills. Mr. West asked if this would be the final payment on the roof. Mr. Elliott responded, yes. Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the November bills of \$256,812.42. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

President Orwig presented Pride and Excellence Recognition to the 2023 IHSA State Finalist, Lady Rebels Cross Country. The 2023 SCHS Girls Cross Country Team had an incredible season including a team IHSA State Finals appearance, Top 20 Team State Finals finish at #19, and a Top 25 Medalist, Freshman Dusti Smith, who placed 22nd in the State, as well as personal records for every runner. Coach Rennick and the Lady Rebels have done an incredible job representing the Pride and Excellence of Stark County. The Lady Rebels Cross Country team includes: Coach Bob Rennick, Riley Hamilton, Alexis Martinez, Sarah Kraklow, Cheyenh Smith, Keagan Hamilton, Kelsey Hawley, Paytin Terwilliger, Nina Longabough, Haylie Moody, Arianna Gerber, Katie

Grinnell, and Dusti Smith. Coach Rennick spoke proudly of the team and thanked the board of education for recognizing them. Mr. Elliott congratulated the team and thanked Coach Rennick, saying that he goes above and beyond for the CC team.

Visitor Comments:

There were no visitor comments.

Administrative Reports:

Stark County Elementary School Principal, Jenna Bibb, shared that they had an exciting Red Ribbon Week that included a concert by “The Jeremiahs,” an Irish Folk Band, thanks to Crossroads Cultural Connections. We held our first Family STEAM Night in conjunction with our One School, One Story event. Through Title I family engagement funds, we were able to purchase a copy of Charlotte’s Web for each SCES family, as well as materials for engaging activities. Thank you to Mrs. Kunkel and the team of teachers for their efforts in this activity. We hosted our annual Veterans Day Program, led by Dr. Parks, to honor our veterans with songs and a cookie reception. This year’s K-5 Christmas Program will be at the SCHS on Tuesday, December 12th. SCES Parents Club and Education Foundation will be having an auction fundraiser on March 9, 2024. There were no questions for Mrs. Bibb.

Stark County Junior High/High School Principal, Megan McGann, shared that she, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Westphal attended the first round of coaching through the ROE for the CTE Education Grant, which will essentially target students interested in becoming teachers and provide them with the opportunity to work towards their teaching certificate through classes offered at Stark County High School and Black Hawk East. ILT work continues. High School teachers are working to prepare an SAT Prep Boot Camp to begin in January in preparation for spring testing to build more awareness and preparedness around a new testing format this year. Six of our Junior students attended the IHSA Leadership Conference in Peoria with both counselors. This conference is intended to build student athletes and athletic minded individuals’ leadership skills within their student body. We had a very successful FFA National Convention with the SC FFA having six students participating in national level events. Chelsey Stotler earned 2nd place in her division at the national level for Food Processing and Food Production. The Envirothon Team of Chelsey Stotler, Garrett Bruecks, Logan Goerks, and Katelyn Allen received a silver rating, and Jacob McCauley performed with the FFA National Choir on the national stage throughout the weekend. Our JH and HS students united around Veterans Day this year by participating in Advisory team competitions. Rather than having a Veterans Day program, we tried something new and got good feedback. JH Advisories competed in a Battle of the Vets, choosing activities to earn points for their Advisory. HS Advisories created a visual product answering the question, “Why do we stand for the flag?” The winning Advisory was treated to a breakfast provided by the FFA. JH also welcomed 10 local SC Veterans on Friday November 10th, allowing the vets to share their stories with small groups of students. This experience was both powerful and impactful for our JH student body. Thank you to local veterans: Jenna Stahl, Mike Breese, Tim Colgan, Sandy Browning, Nick Dyken, Patti Dyken, Luke Hewitt, Sam Rice, Tim Olson, and Dan Krans. There were no questions for Ms. McGann.

Stark County Superintendent, Mr. Elliott shared that since our last meeting, we have had numerous celebrations and events across the district, including Veterans Day Activities, STEAM Night, Red Ribbon Week, Playoff/State Pep Assembly, State XC Finalists and Medalist, 10-1 Football season with two rounds of playoffs, JH Girls Basketball LTC Tournament and Conference Champions, FFA National Recognitions and more. Mr. Elliott added that he was proud that the admin team shows up at a lot of these events to support the students. The Board of Education and Mr. Elliott attended the Annual Joint Conference (Triple I) in Chicago on November 17-18, an update will be provided later in the meeting. SC News through the support of Career Link and Tami Rouse, have been awarded a state grant worth \$148,000. SC100 competed with districts throughout Central Illinois and was awarded the grant based on their project. The project entails creating infomercials at our local manufacturers and businesses to promote post-high school career opportunities from entry level to administration, right in our backyard. The infomercials will be shared with all students at SC100 as further exposure to College and Career opportunities. Mr. Swanson and the SC News will lead the effort and have already begun the planning stages of the project that will go through June of 2024. This grant is also potentially renewable. Groundbreaking for the SCJSH Track will begin the week of November 27th. This will prepare the grounds for concrete work that will take place in the spring. On November 28th, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony during Pride Time. Farnsworth and CORE Construction continue to work together on the planning stage of the new gym project. Mr. Elliott concluded with an update on the budget, which continues to be on pace. There were no questions for Mr. Elliott.

Unfinished Business:

President Orwig read the following Resolution of Intent to Issue Funding Bonds: "Resolution setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper school purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to issue \$6,600,000 bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the School District and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law." Mr. West made a motion to approve the resolution as presented with the intention of the school district to issue \$6,600,000 bonds. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Superintendent Elliott, Mrs. Bibb, and Ms. McGann provided an overview of the 2023 School Report Card that included key data points and a rating of "Commendable" for all three schools. Mr. Richards made a motion to accept the Illinois State School Report Card for 2022-23 as presented. Mr. West seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Leezer, Mr. West, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Elliott each provided an overview of their experience at the 2023 Annual Joint Conference that they attended on November 17th-18th. Mrs. Orwig had not attended the conference but provided some notes from Mrs. Price who was absent from the meeting but had attended the conference. They each shared details regarding the various sessions that they attended throughout the weekend. Several of the board members felt like their sessions validated the work that we are already doing here at Stark County CUSD#100. No action taken.

After the October board presentation by Gorenz and Associates and the board reviewing the final audit report, Mr. Elliott asked the board for acceptance of the final audit report. Mrs. Orwig made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Audit as presented by Gorenz and Associates at the October 16, 2023 board meeting. Mr. West seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

New Business:

Superintendent Elliott presented the end of year fund balances for Fiscal Year 2023. These balances have already been presented to the board, but there is a new state requirement that requires the end of year fund balances to be presented during the levy process. Next, Mr. Elliott continued with the annual presentation of the preliminary tax levy. Per the county clerks, we have been given an estimated 6.5% increase in our EAV to use in creating our tax levy. Mr. Elliott presented two levy options, a 4.99% increase and a 7.0% increase in funding from the previous year. These percentages do not represent an increase in tax rate, but an increase in the dollar amount that the district is levying for. With the increased EAV, both options present an overall reduction in tax rate compared to the previous year, reflecting an 11 cent and 7 cent reduction per \$100,000 assessed value compared to 2022. Also presented was a 10-year comparison of EAV, Tax Rate, Total Expenditures, and Education Fund Expenditures. The comparison showed a 45% increase in EAV and 28% increase in expenditures yet the tax rate has remained constant at 5.43 from 2014 to 2023. The proposed 7.0% tentative levy reflects a tax rate at 5.40. Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the preliminary 7.0% Tax Levy, accept the FY23 end of year balances, and to set a Truth in Taxation hearing to be held on December 18, 2023. Mr. Richards seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Superintendent Elliott presented the 2024-25 Risk Management Plan, which allows for select expenditures in the final approved levy to use Tort Funds. These expenditures include insurance premiums and select percentages of wages paid to administration, facilities director, and nursing staff to meet school safety guidelines. The proposed plan mirrors the 2023-24 plan with no changes to expenditures. This is the first reading of the 2024-25 Risk Management Plan, no action taken.

Superintendent Elliott presented a proposal from Athletic Director, Roland Brown, to move from a \$0-\$10 per game pay scale to a \$20-\$25 per game pay scale as prescribed in the overview provided for the various event worker positions (ticket taker, time clock, score book). Mr. West made a motion to approve the event workers pay scale for 2023-24 as presented, not retroactively. Mrs. Leezer seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Our Skyward Student Information System will receive a mandatory upgrade to the Qmlativ System in the next three years. Skyward is offering a 15% reduction in cost in 2024. There is a 10-month onboarding process and we are on the list for 2024 because we signed up this month. This will allow SC100 to be on the front end of this statewide conversion. In addition, we will upgrade to both the Fee Management and Food Service Portals. There is an upfront fee and training fee of \$10,715 but adding these two additional portals will then provide an annual savings of roughly \$1,000 by moving away from our current Mosaic and My School Bucks systems. The conversion will occur over the next semester and go live over the summer. Training for the clerical will be ongoing

and training videos will be available to teachers and administration at all times. No action taken.

PRESS Issue 113 was released with a variety of policy, administrative procedures and exhibit updates for board approval. This is the first reading of the policy update. The board is charged with reviewing all changes before the December board meeting when PRESS Issue 113 is up for approval. No action taken.

Items for Next Meeting:

FFA Honors; Approval of PRESS Policies; Education Committee Meeting; Truth in Taxation Public Hearing; Approval of Risk Management Plan; Approval of Illinois Library Bill of Rights; Approval of Final Tax Levy.

Executive Session:

Motion was made by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Richards, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation, performance, resignations, retirements, and employment at 7:15 p.m. Motion was approved 4-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. West, to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. and to hold the Executive Session minutes, Not for Release. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2023, Not for Release. Motion was approved 4-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to hold the following reviewed Executive Session Minutes, Not for Release: October 17, 2022; November 21, 2022; December 19, 2022; January 17, 2023; February 21, 2023; March 20, 2023; April 17, 2023; May 15, 2023; June 20, 2023; July 17, 2023; August 21, 2023; September 25, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Cole Hartley as Assistant High School Baseball Coach for the 2023-24 season. Mr. West seconded and motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards, to approve Andrew Collins as Junior High Science Teacher for the 2023-24 school year beginning January 5, 2024. Motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve Andrew Collins as Boys Basketball 2nd Assistant Coach for the 2023-24 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Orwig and passed by a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mr. Richards to approve Olivia Orwig as Student Worker supporting the SC News Grant Initiatives for the 2023-24 school year. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mrs. Leezer announced the resignation of Colby Wall, High School Bass Fishing Coach.

Mrs. Leezer made a motion to approve the maternity leave of Rachel Kellogg for 7 weeks with an estimated due date of January 15th – March 1st, 2024. Seconded by Mr. West. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Motion was made by Mrs. Leezer, seconded by Mrs. Orwig, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion was approved 4-0.

Ann Orwig
President

Emily Leezer
Secretary

Approved 12/18/2023