Westside School District

Board Minutes

October 18, 2021

High School Cafeteria

6:00 PM

Title 1 Report was given by Virga Hayes before the board meeting. Annual Report to the public was given by Brad Kent before the board meeting.

The Westside School Board met in regular session on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00PM, in the High School Cafeteria.

Board Members Present: Mike Estes, Laura Bryant, Flo Ann Highfill, Josh Yarbrough, Dale Wright

Other Members Present: Brad Kent, Alysha White, Virga Hayes, Dennis Fisher, John Elms

**In the matter of: Approval of minutes from September 20th, 2021**

Motion was made by Flo Ann Highfill, seconded by Josh Yarbrough to approve the minutes from September 20th, 2021 as presented. Vote was unanimous.

**In the matter of: Financial Report**

Mr. Brad Kent stated that the financial report was $5,141,605.25

Motion was made by Mike Estes, seconded by Dale Wright to approve the financial report as presented. Vote was unanimous.

**In the matter of: Enrollment Report**

Mr. Brad Kent stated that the enrollment was 637.

**New Business**

**In the matter of: Mask Mandate**

Motion was made by Mike Estes, seconded by Flo Ann Highfill to change the mask mandate from mandatory to recommended allowing the superintendent to reactivate the mask mandate to mandatory if the number of cases rise. Vote was unanimous.

**In the matter of: Student Transfers**

Motion was made by Dale Wright, seconded by Mike Estes to approve the student transfers as presented. Vote was unanimous.

**In the matter of: Athletic Facility Upgrades and Cost Projections**

A report was given by Mr. Kent to update several areas needed for improvement in various athletic departments. These improvements will be added to the master facility plan at the end of the calendar year. Items included in the report were basketball and football scoreboards, trap shooting range improvements, sidewalk additions to the football field area, lights on baseball and softball fields, and a covered batting cage area for baseball and softball. Projects will be broken down individually if and when funds are allocated. No action was needed at this time.

**In the matter of: Update on Elementary School Expansion**

A report was given on the elementary expansion project. Mr. Kent reported that the plan is to have a Construction Manager hired by the first of the year to start putting specific costs to the project. The project will consist of replacing the Ocie Bivens and Kindergarten building by expanding the Sosebee building, bringing everything together into one building. This a partnership project with the state of Arkansas. The Facilities Division of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has allocated approximately $4 million towards the project, with the remaining funds coming from the District’s building fund. Mr. Kent stated that the main concern right now is the increased cost of construction and whether or not the district will have the funds available to support that increase. There is currently no avenue to receive more funding from the state.

**In the matter of: 5% salary increase according to ACA 6-13-635**

Motion was made by Flo Ann Highfill, seconded by Laura Bryant to approve the 5% salary increase as presented to the board. (The law states that any staff member receiving a 5% raise because of change in job duties, master’s degree, etc. be approved annually by the board of education.) This does not change the current salary schedule. Vote was unanimous.

**In the matter of: Staff Bonuses for Contracted Employees in the amount of $1000.00**

Motion was made by Mike Estes, seconded by Flo Ann to approve a $1000.00 bonus to all contracted employees for the 2021-22 school year. Vote was unanimous.

**In the matter of: Personnel Matters**

The board entered into executive session at 6:50 PM and returned to regular session at 7:16PM.

Motion was made by Josh Yarbrough, seconded by Flo Ann Highfill to approve the personnel matters as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Hire Shelly Chrisman, for the 2021-22 school year for the concession stand.

Resignation, David Brown as substitute bus driver.

Resignation, Lori Bibb as middle school special education teacher.

Transfer, Joe Snowman from full time bus driver to substitute bus driver.

The school board meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM. Motion was made by Mike Estes, seconded by Flo Ann Highfill. Vote was unanimous.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Flo Ann Highfill Date Signed