

MINUTES BOARD MEETING

January 12th, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

At 6:05 p.m. Mr. Hartsfield convened the regular meeting of the district Board of Education. Board members present were, Ms. White, Mr. Moore, Ms. Whitaker, Mr. Milner and Mr. Frazier. Ms. Compton was absent. School administrative personnel present were Mr. Webb, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Neely, Ms. Bailey, Mr. Hayden and Ms. Spain. IC Murrell from the PB Commercial was in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Moore.

Financial Statement. The financial statement for the month of December was presented, reporting \$1,179,887.84 in revenue and expenditures of \$1,616,117.95 in the non-activity funds, leaving an ending balance of \$10,255,402.94 Mr. Wilson stated he hired Norman Hill as a financial consultant. Mr. Hill was a superintendent and has testified before legislative session. Mr. Hill had five points which are points the business manager, Norma Walker has made. Mr. Hill said the district needs to not hire people back when employees retire or resign if the district does not need them. The district has to be responsible and cut spending to stay financially sound. The district has to stop the drop in enrollment. On a motion by Mr. Moore and a second by Mr. Milner the board voted 6-0 to approve the financial report for the month of December.

NEW BUSINESS

Training Hours & Recognition. Mr. Wilson made sure the board was aware of entering their training hours for the cycle report that is submitted to the state. Mr. Wilson stated he is proud of the board and the team we have built. He stated that January is board appreciation and it is a thankless job, but we appreciate them. He stated the hours they all had received, which is more than they needed and presented the board members with certificates of appreciation. The crowd gave a standing round of applause. Mr. Hartsfield stated that he loves WC and several generations of his family went to WC and he speaks on behalf of the board that they all love being a part of the education process for kids.

Wildcat Warrior. Ms. Spain recognized the following student for outstanding WCSD Wildcat Activities. These students are on the Student Advisory Council at the Junior High: Kylee Monk, Sasha Walker, Terrance Wyrick, David Summons, Mariah Sims, Mariah Burnett, Ja'Kyria McKinney, Jessica Parker, Maleigh Pridgeon, and Ahmiyah Redix.

Recognize. Ms. Spain recognized the Sergeant Jimmy Stocker as employee of the month from the Junior High. Sgt. Stocker was unable to attend.

Ready for Learning Committee. Ms. Wilson gave a presentation about the Junior High. She stated that learning is required. They have collective commitments such as utilizing best practices and providing data to guide interventions. They have smart goals which help students get 5 ½ credits to count towards graduation which helps Mr. Webb with his graduation rate. The Junior High stated STAR tests and saw 63% growth in math and 58% growth in reading for 9th grade. They had a mandatory meeting for the 9th grade parents to show where their student stands, if they have enough credits, and whether or not they were on track to be a honor graduate. Ms. Wilson stated you cannot learn if you're not present, so they looked at attendance which determines student achievement. Mr. Wilson added that all of our principals are working hard to create growth. Ms. Spain gave a report. She stated the district is building capacity within the walls to increase test scores. With Wednesday early dismissal, teachers can have PLC's and teachers teaching teachers to review data and determine interventions. Solution Tree did a survey to see how far schools have come in programs and all schools have had growth. L.L. Owen had so much growth they aren't under school improvement. DESE had visits on each campus and all comments were positive. Instruction was happening in every classroom, PRIDE in all buildings, and campuses were positive. Several K students are reading on a 2nd grade level, so we are moving in the right direction in the science of reading. By October 2023 all teachers must be certified in science of reading and our district is requiring this be done by March. If teachers do not meet this deadline, they will be on a 1 year plan of improvement.

Athletic Director. Coach Moody talked about the condition of the weight room in the field house and it is in dire need of updating. The existing equipment is rusty and not safe. He had two proposals: A-the board pay for it and B-he uses his budget to pay for it. Wildwood had a proposal of \$31,000 and will charge \$1,500 installation. Mr. Milner asked if there was salvage value and Coach Moody stated absolutely not. Mr. Hartsfield asked how many machines were needed and Coach Moody stated he would like 12 and add each year to have a state of the art equipment. Mr. Wilson said we want to move forward and he recommended \$20,000 come out of the athletic funds and the district pick up the rest of the cost which would be \$12,500. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Frazier, the board voted 6-0 on the recommendation.

Proposal. Paula Bailey discussed the attached proposal. Ms. Bailey stated that she wants to introduce Smart Mouth Pizza Company. This company is only in schools. The company came and evaluated the High School to see if we had what was needed. They have a money back guarantee. They finance the equipment with no penalties for cancelling the contract if it does not work out. They provide training and support on the roll out to the students. They do charity work for every 10 pizzas provided, they donate meals. Mr. Wilson asked how many days a week will they have pizza and Ms. Bailey said 3 lines are available. Mr. Wilson asked if this would be financed through cafeteria funds and Ms. Bailey stated that she checked with Norma Walker and their balance is over \$300,000. She stated they will try to be self-sufficient and get money from reimbursements and this should increase participation. Mr. Wilson recommends the board accept this proposal. On a motion by Mr. Frazier and a second by Mr. Moore, the board

voted 6-0 to accept the proposal. Mr. Milner asked if she surveyed the students and Ms. Bailey stated she didn't because she did not want to get their hopes up if it did not work out. She stated if we want to keep the kids and attract others, we need to keep up with every trend and she believes this will help. Mr. Hartsfield asked if it would be served every day and she stated yes. Ms. Whitaker asked if she visited Vilonia and she stated yes and at the food show.

Building. Mr. Wilson gave an update on the building project. He is trying to get with legislatures to increase the amount per square footage. The state is only giving \$200 now and the cost will be \$320 per square foot. There are only 3 schools in building projects and the state has a billion in surplus. We were only funded on cost before inflation and that was for \$23 million with the state and the millage. It will cost closer to \$30 million, so it is essential for us to increase enrollment. New building projects require safe rooms and we are trying to get a waiver for this. Baldwin & Shell spoke. They met with the design team to change the initial design and are finding ways to cut costs. They are looking at requirements from the state, needs of the district, and funds available. A patron asked what changed in the proposal because inflation was already high when the first proposal was made and she stated it had a safe room included in it. Mr. Wilson stated that inflation has really gone up. Mr. Hayden stated the previous superintendent said we would get FEMA money for the safe room and those monies are all gone. Mr. Webb said they are looking at using classrooms or a gym for a safe room. Baldwin & Shell stated that they will look at what was said during the millage campaign to make sure we do what was said. Mr. Wilson stated we really wanted a gymnasium arena, but with costs we may have to update our existing gym. Mr. Hartsfield stated we are not going to sacrifice safety. Mr. Moore asked Baldwin & Shell if the building costs are at a plateau or still rising. They stated it is leveling off. Mr. Milner asked if it is true that inflation hit construction later than it was at the time of the millage. They stated it has just been changing all over from labor shortages, etc. Mr. Frazier stated that he would like the district to collaborate with other districts with building projects and asked if we have a lobbyist helping us. They stated we had inflation of 9.1%, the highest in 40 years and we dotted all I's at the time of the project and millage.

PPC REPORT & CPPC

Frankie Hemphill presented the PPC report for certified and stated that Mr. Wilson would take care of things in the spring.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Wilson received a letter of retirement from Garry Henson. He received resignations from Alicia Duncan, Jarhea May, and Shirley Simmons. Mr. Wilson recommended Jarhea May's resignation not be accepted. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Frazier, the board voted 6-0 to approve the retirement and resignation of Alicia Duncan and Shirley Simmons. On a motion by Mr. Moore and Mr. Frazier, the board voted 6-0 to not accept Jarhea May's resignation.

ADJOURNMENT.

Respectfully submitted by, Mr. Wilson and Norma Walker.

Alan Frazier,
Board Secretary