

SCHOOL CITY OF WHITING
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 26, 2018 5:30 PM

Board President Ms. Davenport called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM with the following board members present: Nicole Davenport, Amanda Perkins, Jerry Moynihan, Christine Stribiak and Kathy Murzyn.

Administration Present: Superintendent, Cynthia Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent, Lorri Covaciu, Elementary Principal, Julie Pearson, School Board Attorney, Joseph L. Curosh, Director of Finance, Kim Pusateri, and Board Recording Secretary, Jennifer Halliar were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer – Everyone present at the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Davenport gave a short prayer immediately thereafter.

Audience Comments – Board President Ms. Davenport opened the meeting to audience comments concerning items on the agenda: There were 12 visitors present. Hearing no comments, the Audience Comment segment was closed.

Approval of Minutes - All Board members received copies of the minutes of the **regular school board meeting of February 26, 2018**. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the regular school board minutes of February 26, 2018. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Receipts and Disbursements Ending March 31, 2018

	Receipts	Disbursements
General (010)	\$648,190.37	\$847,231.08
Debt Service (020)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Projects (035)	\$2,865.50	\$60,764.14
Transportation (041)	-	\$38,428.90
Bus Replacement (042)	\$0.00	\$61,449.30
Rainy Day (061)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement/Severance (063)	\$0.00	\$20,265.45
School Bkfst. / Lunch (080)	\$64,663.18	\$69,328.06
Textbook Rental (090)	\$1,328.03	\$656.27
Self-Insurance (110)	\$166,781.93	\$299,104.04
Levy Excess (120)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lily Grant (195)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Drama (251-5)	\$0.00	\$0.00
STEM (252-7)	\$0.00	\$0.00
STEM (252-8)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tech Grant (254)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Welfare Activities(Clothing Closet) 260	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buckley Wall of Fame (292)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Top Ten (295)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Early Intervention (300)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Formative Assessment (302-8)	\$0.00	\$0.00
GT(310-8)	\$1,500.00	\$1,317.36
Economic Education - Work Ethics (318)	\$0.00	\$0.00

Common School (319-4)	\$0.00	\$36,000.00
Common School (319-2)	\$0.00	\$3,880.01
Medicaid Reimburse (325)	\$105.07	\$0.00
Secured School Safety (327-7)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gaming (330)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Non English Speaking (371-8)	\$7,500.00	\$3,467.10
School Technology (372)	\$0.00	\$1,104.00
Career & Tech (374-9)	\$0.00	\$4,639.70
PLTW (390)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Innovation Planning (395-4)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Title I (410-8)	\$15,967.72	\$23,914.13
IDEA Part B (525-7)	\$0.00	\$0.00
IDEA Part B (525-8)	\$22,509.12	\$34,246.09
Medicaid Reimburse Fed. (646)	\$3,475.30	\$5,729.18
Title II Part A (684-7)	\$10,660.10	\$3,346.42
Title III SY1617 (688-7)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Title III SY1718(688-8)	\$1,133.58	\$1,700.37
Clearing Accounts (810)	\$211,329.09	\$211,329.09
Pre-Paid Food (840-0)	\$0.00	\$1,054.35
TOTALS	\$1,158,008.99	\$1,728,955.04

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Approval of Claims for the Month of March – A vendor’s list of claims to be paid in March in the amount of \$958,282.03 was presented to each Board member. All items have been received and all claims are subject to final Board review. Ms. Perkins made a motion to approve the claims for March as presented. Mr. Moynihan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Nathan Hale Elementary Principal’s Report – Ms. Julie Pearson, Nathan Hale Principal and students attended the Board meeting. Ms. Pearson explained how students are mastering math and language across the grade levels by not only doing the work, but having the ability to explain math and language arts (i.e. a written response. Ms. Pearson also gave an overview on the Monday Morning Meetings with students on displaying good character, and what good character is to them. Mrs. Pearson presented a video of student-directed documentary and songs on kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, story-telling and skits to help students see how they can display good character during recess and after school.

Ms. Pearson introduced Nathan Hale students Max Segura, A.J. Peterson and Lucas Lechuga to demonstrate The Can Racer and Catapult (2 of 18 events) that the Science Olympiad Team will take to the competition on April 14th at Morton High School.

Ms. Pearson announced that Nathan Hale will host a Family Math Night, Circus Night, Safety Village, and Camp Tecumseh. The Board thanked Ms. Pearson and students for their impressive video and presentation.

Superintendent’s Report – Mrs. Cynthia Scroggins

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School Safety Items – Mrs. Scroggins said that she would request board approval to conduct a Parent Safety Forum on April 24th at 6:00 PM in the auditorium. Mrs. Scroggins said that she would ask the principals, board members and School Resource Office, Mr. Bill Peterson as part of the panel discussion. Mrs. Scroggins said the purpose of the forum would be to give an overview of what the school currently has in place in areas of school safety, review state mandates and guidelines in the areas of school safety, as well as respond to audience comments and concerns.

School Resource Officer – Mrs. Scroggins said SRO, Bill Peterson began on March 12th and met with the administration, spending time to introduce himself to staff and students, had training on camera surveillance system, doing daily building walks becoming familiar with the facilities, reviewing the crisis plan. Mrs. Scroggins said Mr. Peterson participated in the walk-out on March 14th, attended the Lake

County Safe Schools Commission meeting last week, and participated in a random student drug-testing. Mrs. Scroggins said the \$5,000,000.00 liability insurance, letter verifying handgun certification, was turned into the Sheriff's Department in order for Mr. Peterson to be commissioned and obtain powers on school grounds.

Calumet College Safety Audit – Mrs. Scroggins said that she met with Dr. Pleblanski, Director of the Master's Program of Public Safety Administration at Calumet College last week. She said they would be working with the district in July to do a public safety audit. Mrs. Scroggins said this is their capstone project in the program and it is free to the district. Mrs. Scroggins said there will be 3 visits followed by a written report and analysis of current safety measures as well as recommendations for areas to address.

Cyber-Threat Assessment – Mrs. Scroggins said the school hired Golden Tech which will put an appliance in place to begin gathering data. Mrs. Scroggins said they should have results in three weeks.

Non-Resident Application Update – Mrs. Scroggins said that March 29th is the deadline for all non-resident applications. Mrs. Scroggins said that to date, 28 applications were returned to the high school (for 9th grade); 15 applications for 6th grade (there will be a lottery); 2 applications returned for 7th grade and 1 application returned for 8th grade. Mrs. Scroggins said that at the elementary level, 7 applications were returned for kindergarten; 2 applications for 1st grade, 1 application for 3rd grade and 6 applications for 4th grade (there will be a lottery for 4th grade).

Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Legislation – Mrs. Scroggins announced that the legislation session ended on March 15th with 25 of the 110 bills introduced related to education becoming law, most of which come into effect July 1, 2018. Mrs. Scroggins said that House Bill 1001 (Education Funding) addresses the tuition support shortfall this fiscal year. Mrs. Scroggins said House Bill 1426 requires the State Board of Education to establish one standard Indiana diploma for individuals who successfully complete high school graduation requirements with the following designations: (1) General designation (2); Core 40 designation; (3) Core 40 with academic honors designation; (4) Core 40 with technical honors designation;

Mrs. Scroggins said this house bill requires the State Board to create an alternate diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities. It also requires in adopting Core 40 curriculum models, the State Board to consider math course requirements other than Algebra II. Mrs. Scroggins said it further requires the State Board to adopt rules to establish: (1) math course requirements; and (2) science course requirements; for the Core 40 curriculum models. Mrs. Scroggins said it provides that the graduation examination shall be administered until the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Scroggins explained that each school year (beginning after June 30, 2021); a high school shall administer as part of the statewide assessment a nationally recognized college entrance exam.

Mrs. Scroggins said that House Bill 1421 (as it refers to school discipline): Provides the DOE to develop a model evidence based plan for improving student behavior and discipline must: (1) reduce out-of-school suspension and disproportionality in discipline and expulsion; (2) limit referrals to law enforcement or arrests on school property to cases in which referral to law enforcement or arrest is necessary to protect the health and safety of students or school employees; and (3) include policies to address instances of bullying and cyberbullying on school property of a school corporation.

Lead Testing – Mrs. Scroggins said the Indiana Finance Authority has been out and toured the Whiting campus to locate all faucets, sinks and water fountains for testing. Mrs. Scroggins said the testing equipment (water bottles for collection) were delivered. Mrs. Scroggins said the school should hear from them in the next couple of weeks; with results in four to five weeks after the sample collection.

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Assistant Superintendent's Report – Mrs. Lorri Covaciu

Employee Expectation Fair – Mrs. Covaciu said the Employee Expectation Fair took place on Thursday, March 22nd for the senior class. Mrs. Covaciu said students were able to hear three presenters discuss work ethic traits (showing a positive attitude, problem solving, and managing time effectively).

Assistant Superintendent's Report (Continued)

Employee Expectation Fair - Mrs. Covaciu said a presenter from BP said "I was very impressed by their professionalism. Every one of your students stood up and introduced themselves to me while offering me a firm handshake. What a great start to all of the conversations. They all asked very important questions and they were all completely attentive." A senior commented, "In my eyes, it's not a challenge to be a good worker, do the job, and apply the work ethic traits in a real job. In a way, as a student we have those responsibilities."

STEAM Project - Mrs. Covaciu said the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will have an opportunity to participate this summer in a free month-long STEAM project provided by Calumet College St. Joseph in Whiting. Mrs. Covaciu said that during the project, students will focus on inquire, problem-solving, critical thinking and communication.

2018/2019 WHS Course Offerings – Mrs. Covaciu said that there are two additional course offerings at the high school next school year besides the AP Courses: They are Education Professions which is dual credit and CTE and Civil Engineering and Architecture which is the fourth course in the Engineering pathway. Mrs. Covaciu said that incoming Freshmen (Class of 2022) will be scheduling for their courses on March 27th. Mrs. Covaciu said as they approach implementation of the Graduation Pathways, the focus will be on Career Pathways. Mrs. Covaciu said the schools are gearing up for ISTEP – Part II which starts on April 16th.

NEW BUSINES

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Adopt School Calendar – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to adopt the school calendar for the 2018/2019 school year. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to adopt the calendar as presented. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Parent Safety Forum – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to conduct a Parent Safety Forum open to the parents and community on April 24, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the High School Auditorium. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to conduct an open forum. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Approval of Donation – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval for the School City of Whiting to donate one Hewlett-Packard desktop computer and monitor to the Whiting/Robertsdale Historical Society. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the donation. Mr. Moynihan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Renew Blackboard Contract – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to renew the Blackboard Connect Contract (robo-call system) for the period of March 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to approve the renewal contract as presented. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Whiting Public Library Board – Mrs. Scroggins said that following the vacancy posting for the Whiting Public Library Board, only one application was received, therefore, the Board can move forward with a nomination and appointment to the position. Ms. Nicole Davenport nominated applicant Mr. Walter Wachel for the Whiting Library Board position. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Davenport made a motion to nominate Mr. Walter Wachel for the Whiting Library Board. Ms. Christine Stribiak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board. Mrs. Scroggins said that the formal appointment and oath of office will take place at the April 23, 2018 regular board meeting.

Summer Nutrition Program – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to offer the Summer Nutrition Program for the Whiting community and Whiting YMCA from June 4, 2018 through Thursday, July 26, 2018 (10:45 AM to 12:45 PM) Monday through Friday (with the exception of July 4th and Friday, July 27th). Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the Summer Nutrition Program. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Approval to Offer Summer School Program – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to conduct the Summer School Program as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>
Nathan Hale	1 st – 5 th	June 4 th – June 22 nd	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Middle School	6 th – 8 th	June 4 th – June 22 nd	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
High School	9 th – 12 th	June 4 th – June 29 th	7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Mr. Moynihan made a motion to approve the summer school program as presented. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Acceptance of Donations – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to accept the donations of Subway vouchers (value of a 6-inch sub) for each graduating student to be distributed at commencement (from the Subway Corporate Office); and the donation of a book from *Reclaim our Kids* “Undiscovered Domestic Terrorism” by Patrick Sabaitis to be donated to the High School Library. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to accept the donations. Mr. Moynihan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Nathan Hale Summer School Staffing – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of summer school staffing appointments for Nathan Hale Elementary School from June 4, 2018 to June 22, 2018 (8:00 AM to 12:00 PM): **Ms. Stephanie Kutcka** as 1st grade teacher for 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time; **Mr. Scott Allen** as 2nd grade teacher for 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time; **Ms. Heather Hobson** as 3rd grade teacher for 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time; **Ms. Sue Ellen Burriss** as 4th grade teacher for 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time; and **Ms. Melissa Yurechko** as 5th grade teacher for 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to approve the summer school staffing recommendations for Nathan Hale Elementary. Mr. Moynihan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Approval of Middle School Summer Program Staffing – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of summer school staffing appointments for Whiting Middle School: **Ms. Desiree Kristek** as 6th grade teacher for 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time from June 4, 2018 to June 22, 2018 (8:00 AM to 12:00 PM); **Ms. Elizabeth Evans** for the Summer Shakespeare Program for a period of 20 hours; **Mr. Scott Allen** for the Summer Improv Theatre for a period of 10 hours; and **Mr. Patrick Pecher** for the Summer Gifted & Talented Band Camp for a period of 40 hours. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the Middle School Summer School staffing recommendations. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Approval of High School Summer Program Staffing – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the High School staffing from June 4, 2018 to June 29, 2018 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM for 9th through 12th grade teachers for a period of 100 hours plus 4 hours prep time as follows: **Mr. James Simon** as Math and English teacher; **Mr. Mark Harnew** as Government and Econ teacher; **Mr. James Ford** as Spanish I teacher; **Mr. Trevor Reece** as U.S. and World History teacher; **Mr. Dennis Scott** as Credit Recovery teacher; **Mr. Donald Liles** as Math teacher; and **Ms. Kassie Markovich** as English teacher. Mr. Moynihan made a motion to approve the summer school recommendations as presented. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Approval of Extra-Curricular Appointments - Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the extra-curricular appointments which the Board took in aggregate: **Mr. Chris Page** as Volunteer Middle School Football Coach; **Mr. David Funk** as volunteer High School Football Coach; **Mr. Jeff Blahunka** as Volunteer High School boys' Golf Coach; **Mr. Adam Baez** as Volunteer High School Girls' Tennis Coach; **Ms. Jessica Martinez** as Volunteer High School Softball Coach; and **Mr. Matt Solis** as Volunteer Middle School Football Coach. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Approval to Change Effective FMLA Date – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to change the effective FMLA date for Ms. Taylor McInnis, Nathan Hale Elementary Teacher (March 15, 2018 through May 29, 2018). Ms. Murzyn made a motion to approve the change. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Approval to Extend FMLA Date - Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to extend the FMLA date for Transportation Employee, Susan Gallagher (from January 16, 2018 to the end of the school year, May 25, 2018). Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the FMLA extension. Mr. Moynihan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Acceptance of Resignation – Mrs. Scroggins recommended approval to accept the resignation of Renee Dunlap, Payroll/HR Specialist effective Friday, April 20, 2018. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to accept the resignation. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Board Member Comments – Ms. Murzyn wished everyone a happy Easter. Ms. Davenport said she really appreciates the parents and students attending board meetings and hopes that more students will be able to attend as part of the principals' reports to demonstrate what they are doing in school.

Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Moynihan and seconded by Ms. Stribiak, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

Secretary