

**SCHOOL CITY OF WHITING**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 23, 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, Christine Stribiak and Kathy Murzyn. Mr. Moynihan was absent.

**Administration Present:** Superintendent, Cynthia Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent, Lorri Covaciu, 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 78 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 March 26, 2018**. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to approve the regular school board minutes of March 26, 2018. Ms. Stribiak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Claims for the Month of April** – A vendor’s list of claims to be paid in April in the amount of \$984,109.01 was presented to each Board member. All items have been received and all claims are subject to final Board review. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the claims for April as presented. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Receipts and Disbursements Ending April 30, 2018**

	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>
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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,158,008.99</b>	<b>\$1,728,955.04</b>

**Non-Resident Lottery** – Mrs. Scroggins welcomed everyone to the board meeting and stated that the first order of business would be the non-resident lottery for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Scroggins said that pursuant to I.C. 20-26-11-32, school districts that accept non-resident student applications which exceed the number of available slots must be determined by a random lottery drawing. Mrs. Scroggins said that all of the other grade levels received the number of requests that coincided with what was advertised or less than what was advertised (or less than what was advertised). Mrs. Scroggins said that students in Kindergarten, Fourth, Sixth and Ninth Grade who do not get one of the advertised spots would be placed on a waiting list in the order their number is called. Mrs. Scroggins said prior to the board meeting, each parent received a letter notifying them that their child was assigned a number for the drawing at this board meeting and they invited to attend. Mrs. Scroggins said parents would also be notified the next day of the lottery results. Mrs. Scroggins announced the available number of openings for non-resident students: **Kindergarten** (2 spots) **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** (3 spots) **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** (3 spots) and **9<sup>th</sup> Grade** (36 spots). Mrs. Scroggins since the number of spots in the lottery: **Kindergarten** (5 lottery) **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** (5 lottery) **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** (14 lottery) and **9<sup>th</sup> Grade** (43 lottery). Mrs. Scroggins said they would begin the lottery drawing with kindergarten and proceed in numerical order with each of the four grade levels: **Kindergarten: G-57; I-24** (I-19, B-3, I-30 waiting list); **4<sup>th</sup> Grade: G-54, O-74, N-40** (O-66, B-6 waiting list); **6<sup>th</sup> Grade: G-55, B-4, G-49** (N-41, N-35, N-31, I-25, I-16, B-7, O-62, N-44, G-50, I-26, G-58 waiting list in that order); **9<sup>th</sup> Grade: O-70, N-42, G-47, O-65, G-52, N-45, B-2, I-20, I-21, G-59, I-23, I-22, N-33, N-37, N-32, B-15, O-63, G-60, G-56, O-67, O-68, B-1, N-38, B-10, I-29, G-46, B-12, B-14, B-11, N-43, I-17, G-48, B-5, O-61, B-08, and O-64** (7 on waiting list: I-18, O-69, N-36, O-75, N-39, G-51, and G-53 in that order).

**Lottery (continued)**

Mrs. Scroggins said the non-resident parents would be contacted if there are any openings in their grade level by the start of the school year. Mrs. Scroggins thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed all of the new students and parents who are now part of the School City of Whiting family. Mrs. Scroggins said the school is always happy to welcome new students and parents into the district.

**Special Presentation** – Mrs. Scroggins asked Mr. Patrick Pecher, Choir and Band Director and students to perform selections from the Regional and State ISSMA Competition, many of whom received gold and silver medals not only at the district competition, but also at the state level. Mr. Pecher introduced vocalist **Rana Hamad** who beautifully performed “Homeward Bound” and the Percussion Ensemble: **Allen Johnson, Ben Diridin, Joe Lowry, Kevin Torres, Ethan Gormley and Theresa Ruiz** who performed a compelling rendition of “Fanfare for Tambourines”. Following the presentation, the Board presented special certificates recognizing all the students who participated in ISSMA for the 2017/2018 school year.

Mrs. Scroggins congratulated all of the students on their achievement and excellent performance. Mrs. Scroggins said that the choir and band students put in a lot of time in practice and in performing not only during the school year, but many special city events: Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Pierogi Fest Parade, Halloween Parade, Veteran's Day and the Whiting Festival of Lights December Christmas Parade. Mrs. Scroggins said the students' achievement is a direct reflection of the commitment, dedication and hard work of their teacher Mr. Pecher. Mrs. Scroggins told Mr. Pecher that his passion for music and the art of teaching has brought excellence to the music program and commended him for all that he has done for the students. Board President Ms. Davenport thanked everyone for attending and invited the audience and guests to stay for refreshments during the intermission.

*The meeting reconvened at 6:30 PM*

### **Superintendent's Report**

Education Foundation – Mrs. Scroggins said the Education Foundation met on April 19<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of eight grants submitted this year. Mrs. Scroggins said the foundation will award five teacher mini-grants for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Scroggins announced that an elementary math grant was approved, a middle school literature grant, a special education support program grant, a high school business/technology grant and a high school history technology grant were all approved. Mrs. Scroggins said the 3 other grants are technology and STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) focused so she will inform the staff members that the district will be funding their programs as well using available B/P STEM Grant Funds. Mrs. Scroggins said the educators would be notified this week. Mrs. Scroggins said all of the programs will be implemented during the 2018/219 school year.

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Education Foundation – Mrs. Scroggins said the Education Foundation is currently in the process of recruiting potential new board members for the 2018/2019 school year in an effort to expand the current board from 6 to 9 board members. Mrs. Scroggins said they currently have four applicants and expect to receive more which will be reviewed at the next meeting in May. Mrs. Scroggins announced that the Education Foundation has completed a draft of the by-laws for the Foundation.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Covaciu said that the school received all of the iPads which were given the Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and support area teachers to get started on following an introductory training. Mrs. Covaciu said that as soon as Regional Data Services has finished a syncing program, they will have iPads in the hands of the students before the end of the school year. Mrs. Covaciu said iPad training is set for August 1st and August 2nd for the 12 teachers.

Mrs. Covaciu said the Middle School will be hosting JA Chambertown which is similar to the Reality Store they hosted last year but the focus is more on budgeting and financial literacy instead of careers. JA Chambertown will be held on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, in the morning. Mrs. Covaciu said they plan to bring in 20 community volunteers.

Mrs. Covaciu announced that seven high school staff members along with Principal Julie Fregien visited Merrillville High School to see what trimesters look like in action. They will be presenting their findings to their colleagues this Wednesday as we prepare to change over to trimesters for the 2019/2020 school year.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Oath of Office for Whiting Public Library Board** – Board President Ms. Davenport said that at the March 26<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting, it was the consensus of the Board to nominate Mr. Walter Wachel for the Whiting Public Library Board with the formal appointment at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

Ms. Murzyn made a motion to appoint Mr. Walter Wachel for the Whiting Public Library Board for a term of four years, commencing May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2022. Ms. Stribiak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board. Board Attorney, Mr. Joseph Curosh administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Walter Wachel as Whiting Public Library Board Member for the term of May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2022. The Board congratulated Mr. Wachel and thanked him for accepting the position.

**Approval to Apply for School Safety Grant** - Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to apply for Fiscal Year 19 Secured Schools Safety Grant. Ms. Perkins made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Summer Registration Dates** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the summer registration for Phase I and Phase II as follows:

**Phase I – New Student Registration**

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June 4, 2018 – June 8, 2018 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

July 9, 2018 – July 13, 2018 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Phase II – Summer Registration for ALL Students**

Last Names A-L Mon. July 30<sup>th</sup> 1 PM to 3:45 PM and 5:00 PM to 6:45 PM

Last Names M-Z Wed. Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> 1 PM to 3:45 PM and 5:00 PM to 6:45 PM

Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the summer registration dates for new and return students. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of NWEA Contract** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to renew the NWEA Contract. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the request to renew the contract as presented. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval to Deposit Donations as Received** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval for school treasurers to deposit donations upon receipt with retroactive approval at the next regular school board meeting. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

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**Approval to Offer a Jumpstart Program** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to offer Kindergarten Jump Start Program at Nathan Hale from July 23, 2018 to August 3, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Monday through Friday. Ms. Perkins made a motion to approve the program. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Acceptance Donations** - Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to accept donations:

- \$162.46 from Fund Seekers to the Athletic Department;
- \$361.00 from Fund Seekers to the Athletic Department;
- \$400.00 from Regina Manikowski for Vic Sahagun Weight Room;
- \$25.00 from Georgette Hylek for the Science Olympiad Team;
- \$100.00 from Regina Hylek for the Science Olympiad Team;
- \$1.00 from Mr. Allen for the High School Choir;
- \$80.00 from Judge Ann Likens for Safe Prom;
- \$200.00 from Mayor Stahura for Safe Prom;
- \$160.00 from Whiting City Court for Safe Prom;
- \$100.00 from Baran Funeral Home for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from Centier Bank for Safe Prom;
- \$160.00 from Whiting Lions Club for Safe Prom;
- \$100.00 from Attorney David Dabertin for Safe Prom;
- \$25.00 from Whiting American Slovak Club for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from the Roosevelt Club for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from the Knights of Columbus for Safe Prom;
- \$480.00 from Whiting HS PTO for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from the Whiting Teachers' Association for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from Whiting Booster Club for Safe Prom;
- \$160.00 from Whiting HS Class of 2018 for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from Whiting HS Athletic Department for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from Whiting HS Softball for Safe Prom;
- \$160.00 from Whiting HS Class of 2020 for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from John and Stephanie Strabavy for Safe Prom;
- \$45.00 from Pablo and Wanda Unate for Safe Prom;
- \$160.00 from Whiting Fire Department for Safe Prom;
- \$240.00 from Whiting Fraternal Order of Police for Safe Prom;
- \$40.00 from Rebeca's Full Service Salon for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from Tom and Cathy Michniewicz for Safe Prom;
- \$80.00 from Whiting Elks for Safe Prom;
- \$50.00 from Center Lounge for Safe Prom;
- \$120.00 from Trevor Reece for Safe Prom;
- \$10.00 from Daniel Solis for Safe Prom;

Ms. Murzyn made a motion to accept the donations as presented. Ms. Stribiak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

## **PERSONNEL**

**Approval of Summer Nutrition Program Staffing** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval for the Summer Nutrition Program Staffing as follows: **Ms. Anna Esparza** at \$9.50 per hour for 4 ½ hours per day, 5 days per week for the weeks of June 4, 2018; June 8, 2018; June 11, 2018; June 15, 2018; June 18, 2018; June 22, 2018; and June 25<sup>th</sup> June 29<sup>th</sup> 2018; **Ms. Jennifer Mansfield** at \$9.50 for 4 ½

hours per day, 5 days per week for the weeks of June 4, 2018; June 8, 2018; June 11, 2018; June 15, 2018; June 18, 2018; June 22, 2018; and June 25<sup>th</sup> and June 29, 2018.

### **Summer Nutrition Program Staffing** (Continued)

**Ms. Danielle Cerda** at \$9.50 per hour for 4 ½ hours per day, 5 days per week for the weeks of July 2, 2018; July 6, 2018 (closed July 4<sup>th</sup>) July 9, 2018; July 13, 2018; July 16<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup> 2018; and **Ms. Laura Salazar** at \$9.50 per hour for 4 ½ hours per day, 5 days per week for the weeks of July 2, 2018; July 6, 2018 (closed July 4<sup>th</sup>) July 9, 2018; July 13, 2018; July 16<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup> 2018. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to approve the summer staffing for the Nutrition Program as presented. Ms. Stribiak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Summer School Staffing** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the summer staffing for Whiting Middle School and Whiting High School as follows: **Mr. Jeff Lee** as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher for a total of 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time; **Ms. Karen Nee** as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher for a total of 60 hours plus 4 hours prep time; **Ms. Selene Giron** as Counselor for up to 300 hours during summer effective June 5, 2018; **Mr. Tyler Tampier**, Athletic Director for up to 80 summer hours effective June 5, 2018 for duties associated with the Athletic Dept. **Ms. Thorrie Graham**, Special Case Management duties up to 80 hours effective June 5, 2018; and **Ms. Anna Ashford**, School Psychologist for Special Education testing (up to 80 hours) effective June 5, 2018; (for Nathan Hale, WMS and WHS). Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the Middle School and High School summer staffing. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Transportation Department Summer Staffing** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the summer staffing recommendations for the Transportation Department as follows: **Ms. Dolores Fejes** as Bus Aide for Hammond Camp for 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week from June 11, 2018 to June 28, 2018; **Ms. Tabitha Haro** as Bus Driver during Summer School for 4 hours per day, 5 days per week from June 4, 2018 to June 29, 2018; (for Nathan Hale, WMS and WHS); **Ms. Terri Bachuz** as Bus Driver for Summer School for 4 hours per day, 5 days per week from June 4, 2018 to June 29, 2018; (continued): and July 23, 2018 to July 27, 2018 (for Nathan Hale, WMS and WHS); **Ms. Pat Hemm** as Bus Driver for Summer School for 4 hours per day, 5 days per week from June 4, 2018 to June 29, 2018 and July 23, 2018 to July 27, 2018 (for Nathan Hale, WMS and WHS); **Ms. Shellee Whitefoot** as Van Driver for Summer School for 5 days per week up to 4 hours per day from June 4, 2018 to June 29, 2018 and mail courier for 3 days per week, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, (up to 2 hours per day from June 29, 2018 to August 3, 2018); **Ms. Sandra Espinoza** as Bus Driver for Hammond Camp for 5 days per week from June 11, 2018 to June 28, 2018 and Supervisor for up to 6.5 hours for driving, supervising, scheduling and training through to August 3, 2018; and **Ms. Lisa Vanderbye** as Transportation Secretary for the district-wide registration Monday, July 30, 2018 and Wednesday, August 1, 2018 for approximately 4-5 hours per day for a period of 2 days. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to approve the Transportation Department staffing. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Retroactive Appointment** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to appoint Ms. Felicia Cronin as HR/Payroll Specialist and Deputy Treasurer effective and retroactive to April 4, 2018 for full time at \$21.50 per hour, for 5 days per week from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM with a 90 day probationary period of April 4, 2018 to July 3, 2018. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Cronin. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Extra-Curricular Appointments** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the following extra-curricular recommendations, which the Board took in aggregate: **Mr. James Ford** as Class of 2022 Co-Sponsor effective the 2018-2019 school year; **Ms. Kelly Morando** as Class of 2022 Co-Sponsor effective the 2018-2019 school year; and **Mr. Damian Ventura** as Volunteer Middle School Girls' Basketball Coach effective April 23, 2018. Ms. Perkins made a motion to approve the extra-curricular appointments. Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Retroactive FMLA for Nathan Hale Teacher** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval from the Board to grant a retroactive FMLA for Nathan Hale Pre-K Teacher, Donna Strabavy from April 9, 2018 to May 29, 2018. Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the recommendation. Ms. Perkins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Acceptance of Resignation** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval to accept the resignation of **Ms. Regina Hylek** as English/Foreign Language Instructional Leader and PBIS Committee Member effective the end of the 2017/2018 school year. Ms. Murzyn made a motion to accept the resignation. Ms. Stribiak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Approval of Facilities Use Requests** – Mrs. Scroggins requested approval of the following facilities use requests, which the Board took in aggregate:

**Ultimate Taekwondo Training** for use of the Memorial Gymnasium

on Saturday, October 20, 2018 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for a Taekwondo Tournament and with access to the gym on Friday, October 19, 2018

(for set up (after the schools' teams have vacated the gym) or by 6:30

Ultimate Taekwondo will pay the hourly wages for two maintenance

Workers and the cost for the gymnasium at \$750.00;

**Whiting PTO** for use of the Cafeteria and Nathan Hale Elementary

playground area (outdoor seating) to host a reception for WHS

graduates following commencement on Sunday, May 27, 2018

from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and to waive all fees associated with use

of the facilities; and:

**Facilities Use Request** *(Continued)*

**Whiting YMCA** for use of the Track and Field for Youth Summer

Sports Camp from June 4, 2018 to June 9, 2018 from 10:30 AM

to 1:00 PM and request to waive all fees so the YMCA can provide

an affordable sports camp for all participating students;

Ms. Stribiak made a motion to approve the facilities use requests as presented.

Ms. Murzyn seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

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#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Murzyn said it was heart-warming to see how many parents are so involved in the well-being of their children and how supportive and involved they are in the education choices for their children. The Board commented on a suggestion for the principals or teachers to contact WJOB to give an update or highlights of what is happening at Whiting Schools or possibly have principals interviewed on the radio as a spotlight on Whiting Schools.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. Murzyn and seconded by Ms. Stribiak, which was passed unanimously by the Board.

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Secretary