

**WASHINGTON ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2015
7:30 P.M. Open Session - School Commons
8:30 P.M. (or Immediately after the Board Meeting) -
Executive/Closed Session - School Commons
APPROVED MINUTES**

OPEN SESSION

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - President Amy Jorgenson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Other Board Members Present: Tom Jordan, Kevin Krueger, and Kirsten Purinton (absent: Sarah Duggan Goldstein; Administrator: Mati Palm-Leis; Administrative Assistant: Sue Cornell; IT Coordinator: Thomas Waldron; Community Members: Warren and Mary Marik; Teachers: Hannah Nerenhausen, Margaret Foss, and Michelle Jordan

1. **MSP(Purinton/Krueger)** to approve the agenda as amended to include the approval of the Budget Committee recommendations. Approved 5-0.

2. **MSP(Krueger/Purinton)** to approve the minutes as presented for the regular Board of Education meeting on July 26, 2015. Approved 5-0.

3. Good News Report

- Washington D.C group held a car wash earlier this month and made \$700, \$358 at the Flea Market, and \$200 selling snacks at Under the Big Top. They will host another car wash and a rummage sale fundraiser on Saturday, September 5. The group is considering a class play at the TPAC for a final fundraiser.
- Registration Night and Day, were held August 10 and 11 with 90% of families attending. Mr. Palm-Leis hopes to streamline the paperwork in the following years.
- The school is looking at having our first ever Back to School four-page spread in the August 27th issue of The Observer. It will include a variety of information for parents and community members. Mr. Palm-Leis thanked Kathleen Maci and Mary Marik for providing support and guidance. Mary Marik thanked the school for a great working relationship.

4. Communications- none.

5. Treasurer' Report - Kevin Krueger presented the payables for the month in the amount of **\$47,620.69**. The CESA 7 contract was \$16,920, fire alarm installation and 1 year maintenance contract was \$5,051.45, propane fill-up was \$4,623.05, and health insurance payment were largest bills this month. Kirsten Purinton asked Mr. Palm-Leis to explain why the district contracts with CESA 7 every year. He offered explain during the Budget Committee report.

6. District Administrator's Report - Mr. Palm-Leis

- The first day of school is Tuesday, September 1, and the entire staff is looking forward to a very positive start to the school year.
- Mr. Palm-Leis thanked a number of staff members. Kevin Jones and Michael Gillespie for getting the building looking good. Mr. Jones has proved to be a positive addition to the school in his first month of employment. He thanked Mrs. Krueger for sending many summer hours completing the student's class schedules. Mr. Palm-Leis met for two hours this morning with the teachers, and one area they discussed extensively was building a positive climate of respect in the school. Mr. Palm-Leis will be meeting with the Juniors and Seniors on the first day to discuss their special role in helping shaping our school climate this year. There are two new foreign exchange students this fall - a girl from Belgium staying with the Waldrons and a boy from Spain staying with the Pratts. Two weeks ago the new fire alarm was installed and is fully functioning. On July 24, Mr. Palm-Leis

met with Jeff Dickert to reviewed different ways in which CESA 7 can serve the district. On August 5 and 6, Mr. Palm-Leis attended the WASDA First Year Superintendent Academy in Stevens Point. It provided an opportunity to network with other first-year superintendents, as well as, many of the state leaders in education impacting legislation and other educational initiatives. He also had the opportunity to meet with our legal counsel, Bob Butler. He also attended a Baird workshop on School Finance, a three day workshop at CESA 6 for Educator Effectiveness Training. In September Mr.Palm-Leis will be attending two workshops and a meeting, September 9, the Superintendent Meeting at CESA 7, and on September 29, the last day of the Educator Effectiveness Training.

7. Board of Education Committee's Report - Most committees did not meet during the month of August.

- A. President's Report - Amy Jorgenson thanked Mr. Palm-Leis for jumping in and tackling a number of new teacher hires. She and the rest of the Board are excited about the new staff. There will be an Open House to welcome Dr. Palm-Leis, his family, and all the new staff members on Tuesday, September 15 from 5:00-7:15 p.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 7:30 p.m. In the future, Amy would also like to use the President's Report as a time to provide legislative updates affecting the district.
- B. Budget Committee - There was not an updated budget because the district is still waiting on some insurance numbers, but it will be ready by the Annual Meeting. Mr. Palm-Leis recommended that the district on longer carry **Student Accident Insurance**, offered in the past as secondary insurance for students. A number of school districts are no longer providing Student Accident Insurance because it is an insurance redundancy with the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The estimated cost to the district would be \$2,161. The district will be providing parents with the option to purchasing a separate policy individually for a small yearly fee. **Health Insurance Update-** The district had to leave the Door/Kewaukee Insurance Consortium because of new Federal guidelines last year. so the district had to go to a self-funded model. Our insurance agency, M3, quoted a tiered system insurance, but since we are self-funded, we no longer qualified for a tiered system. Last spring, the district signed a contract for a tiered system, but since we legally can't have a tiered system, the health insurance will increase about \$4,066. **Property Insurance-** Mr. Palm-Leis reported that many rural school districts, including WISD, have seen a significant increase in their property insurance because the Local Government Property Insurance Fund is running out of money. The rates are increasing 40-80% from last year's rates, with an up to 80% increase the following year. Last year the district paid \$2,533, and was quoted \$4,012 for this year, and a much larger increase is expected the following year. Mr. Palm-Leis and the Budget Committee recommended going instead going through Chubb Insurance with an initially higher quote this year of \$5,473, but with only a 1-3% anticipated increase the following year. Also, there is a 1% savings if we sign up by September 1. **CESA 7 Contract-** Mr. Palm-Leis explained the many services the school uses by contracting with CESA 7. The district will use CESA 7 for curriculum support, school improvement services (assessing our math program), teacher development in the case of Ms. Nerenhausen and Mr. Gillespie, and internet services through ShoreNet which is \$7,343 of the total contract. The good news of the report was that the district's **Sparsity Aid** is estimated to increase from \$13,400 to \$18,600.
- C. Transportation, Building and Grounds Committee - The buses were inspected and there only a couple minor electrical fixes that Adam Hanlin will fix before the start of school. Tom Jordan just needs a computerized image of the school logo for the van decals, and Amy Jorgenson said she could help. On September 13, Tom Jordan and Kevin Krueger will install one replacement window to develop bid requests. The fence will be installed before October 15.
- D. Learning & Technology Committee - Mr. Palm-Leis would like to bring the operation of the webpage back into the school building. He proposed working with CESA 6, which offers web page design set-up for schools with Mrs. Kickbush and Mr. Thomas Waldron working on the design and Mrs. Cornell updating the information. The new filtering services will be IBOSS and Securely (only for the Chromebooks). Thomas Waldron has also recommended installing a battery backup for our server, before installing the new domain server, and an updated computer rack for circulating air

and keeping the server cool to preserve the life of the equipment. Mrs. Foss reported that the teachers have met several times to plan the fall WINS voyage on Rock Island. The naturalist, Richard Frost, will present information to students during their field trip next week. The teachers had an inservice provided by CESA 7 on the writing curriculum, Units of Study, (by Lucy Calkins) to develop a consistent curriculum from K-8th grade. CESA 7 will also evaluate and review the district's math program.

- E. Policy Committee - Mr. Palm-Leis would like to work with the committee to develop a new cellphone and electronic device policy, the current policy was approved in 2010. He would also like update our policies to correlate to the universal numbering system used WASB, which will not need reapproval if only the referencing numbers change.
- F. Employee Relations/Personnel Committee - The committee hired Hannah Nerenhausen to teach 3rd/4th grade this school year. The interview committee was impressed with her experience working with students, positive attitude, and leadership skills. She shared an educational philosophy similar to the district's, even though she doesn't not have a teaching degree. She is enrolled in a program with CESA 7 to receive her teaching permit and work towards earning her teaching degree.

8. Open Discussion - Mrs. Foss thanked Sue Cornell and Mr. Palm-Leis for preparing breakfast for the staff. Tom Jordan asked if fall soccer was occurring this year. Mr. Palm-Leis reported that there would not be soccer this fall, but he is committed to work on it for next year. Mr. Gillespie needs more time to schedule games and a coach needs to be found. Mary Marik asked if the battery backup system is for the new furnace also. Amy Jorgenson responded that this backup was just for the server. Tom Jordan reported that once Johnson Controls Inc. was able to get into our computer system, the computer was able to make the changes necessary to our heating system.

9. Action Items

- A. **MSP(Purinton/Jordan)** to approve the payment of bills in the amount of **\$47,620.69**. Approved 4-0.
- B. **MSP(Jordan/Krueger)** to approve the teaching contract of Hannah Nerenhausen for the 3rd/4th Grade teaching position. Approved 4-0.
- C. **MSP(Krueger/Jordan)** to approve the Student Handbook. Approved 4-0.
- D. **MSP(Purinton/Krueger)** to approve the Seclusion and Restraint Report for DPI with NO incidents of seclusion or restraints. Approved 4-0.
- E. **MSP(Purinton/Krueger)** to approve the CESA 7 Contract for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Approved 4-0.
- F. The Budget Committee recommendations: **MSP(Purinton/Jordan)** to approve the purchase of a battery backup system and updated computer rack for \$2,800. **MSP(Jordan/Krueger)** to approve the property insurance contract through Chubbs Insurance for \$5,473. Approved 4-0.

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10. Future Meetings

- A. Annual Meeting of the School District of Washington- September 15, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. with an Open House from 5:00-7:15 p.m.
- B. Board of Education - Monthly Meeting - Thursday, September 24, 2015

8:45 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MSP(Purinton/Krueger) to move into Executive Session (Pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes). Approved 4-0.

- 1. The Board and Mr. Palm-Leis discussed the District Administrator Evaluation Process.

MSP(Krueger/Jordan) to move from executive session into open session. Approved 4-0.

9:25 p.m. OPEN SESSION

MSP(Krueger/Purinton) to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Approved 4-0.