

**WASHINGTON ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Thursday, September 24, 2015
7:30 P.M. Open Session - School Commons
APPROVED MINUTES**

OPEN SESSION

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - President Amy Jorgenson called the meeting to order at 7:30 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; Community Members: Warren and Mary Marik, Valerie Fons; Teachers: Margaret Foss

1. **MSP (Krueger/Purinton)** to approve the agenda as presented. Approved 4-0.
2. **MSP (Purinton/Jordan)** to approve the minutes as presented for the regular Board of Education meeting on August 25, 2015. Approved 4-0.
3. Good News Report
 - The Washington D.C trip fundraising is completed! Mrs. Cornell reported that the group made \$751 on the car wash and \$3,016.41 at the rummage sale on Labor Day Weekend. Thank you to the community for all their generous support to raise a total of \$11,500!
 - The Back-to-School issue in the Observer generated positive feedback from community members and parents.
 - On the third Friday of September this year there were 77 students enrolled in the school, with a FTE (Full Time Equivalency) of 74 students. This is up significantly from the 58 students counted in September last year.
 - Margaret Foss shared the all-school clean-up at Schoolhouse Beach clean-up that took place on the afternoon of September 16. Every piece of garbage (3,198 pieces, totalling 34.7 pounds) counted and cataloged to be reported to Alliance for the Great Lakes. Mrs. Foss reported the older kids did a fantastic job of being mentors for the younger students.
4. Communications- none.
5. Treasurer' Report - Kevin Krueger presented the payables for the month in the amount of **\$41,190.71**.
6. District Administrator's Report -
 - Today, September 24, the district enjoyed the pinnacle of our Rock Island WINS Voyage with a school-wide trip to Rock Island. Students and teachers hiked, provided Beowulf and ballad presentations in the boat house, and played Native American physical activity games.
 - Mr. Palm-Leis reported in the highlights of the CESA 7 Superintendent's Meeting. They included updates from Assistant State Superintendent Michael Thompson on: a new Civics Exam, which Mr. Heitz will be preparing our students for this year, but will not be counted until the following year; a new state exam for grades 3-8 called the Wisconsin Forward Exam to replaced the Badger Exam used last year; and changes to open enrollment exemption, which eliminates undue financial burden to the district, as a reason for refuse a request. He also attended our M3 Consortium related to our health insurance - currently the district is looking at maintaining our membership and not expand, as well as nobody is looking to leave. Our school district is a member of the consortium but because of our size, we are self-funded.
 - Mr. Palm-Leis attended the final day of Educator Effectiveness held in Manitowoc. He has completed the classroom instruction and plans to have the certification process done in October.
 - On September 8, Mr. Palm-Leis met with State Senator Joel Kitchens for about a half hour in which they discussed various educational challenges that are unique to Washington Island, including the state funding formula regarding state aid for our district. He found Senator Kitchen a receptive

listener, who shared that he felt that the electorate favored the idea of referendum to communicate its support or lack of support of its schools.

- Monday, September, 21, there was a staff inservice working on Experiential Learning, Professional Learning Communities(PLC) and Literacy.
- This week there was a nice article in the Door County Advocate that highlighted the Washington Island school district and our use of emergency teaching licenses.
- Yesterday, September 23, the entire school attended the Community Band concert at the TPAC.
- Mr. Palm-Leis will be trained by Johnson Controls Inc. on the new heating system very soon.

7. Board of Education Committee's Report -

- A. President's Report - Amy Jorgenson is going to attend the Door County School Boards President's meeting in Sturgeon Bay next month. The main topic for the meeting is discussion on a centralized administration office. She also shared highlights from a letter written by State Senator, Kathleen Vinehout, concerning the State's budget cuts for all Wisconsin public school including the UW system.
- B. Budget Committee - The committee reported that the bids for short-term borrowing \$440,000 to cover operational expenses were due today and will be presented. The copier contract is \$475 per quarter, the district will be getting a new copier that will monitor each staff members usage, and working with the staff, Mr. Palm-Leis hopes to decrease our paper usage by 18% in the next 12 months. The circuit breaker system in the Tech Ed room/workshop is old, Tony Young was able to find a new breaker for \$700, and to upgrade the electrical panel will be \$2,500 the committee recommended replacing the electrical panel. The annual cost of the Baird Budget Model is \$2,250. This budgeting model assists the Superintendent and the Board significantly is projecting operating costs, tax levy, etc. Mr. Palm-Leis recommended will write a invitation to bid for the installation of the new windows, to begin the bidding process to install the new windows.
- C. Transportation, Building and Grounds Committee - Mr. Palm-Leis would like to see the 3rd/4th grade class moved to the current Resources Room, and move the Resource Room to the current 3rd/4th grade room. Part of the room would stay utilized as a Resource Area, with a partition wall and door installed to separate it from the classroom. The committee plans to install the propane tank fence posts this weekend and the fence the following weekend.
- D. Learning & Technology Committee - Amy Jorgenson gave an update on the on-line courses that the some high school students are taking. Eleven students are taking courses in Sociology, Wildlife Management, Russian language, American Sign language, and Medical Terminology. Online learning provides many great opportunities through ITV, E-Achieve, and college courses, but does increase our budget. The classes our students have enrolled in cost \$5,500 before textbooks. These classes need to figured into budget forecasts in the future. Mr. Thomas Waldron, Technology Coordinator, is installing the battery backup and installing the domain server. The committee would like to put new controllers on a technology budget "Wish List." New controllers would increase connectivity and fix wireless drop zones throughout the building.
- E. Policy Committee - The committee did not meet. But, Mr. Palm Leis did meet with Sarah Duggan Goldstein, and she is going to work on renumbering the policies to match the WASB format and they discussed the policy services offered by WASB.
- F. Employee Relations/Personnel Committee - The committee did not meet.

8. Open Discussion -

Margaret Foss wanted to say Thank You to the Washington Island Ferry Line for providing free transportation to and from Rock Island free of charge for our students and teachers on two separate days this fall.

Mary Marik asked about a draft of the shared services agreement, between the Town and the School District presented at the last town meeting. Mr. Palm-Leis and Town Chairman, Jim Hansen, have met to discuss the shared services agreement and the school district looks forward to regenerating this agreement and it is starting at the town level.

Valerie Fons shared that she had heard at annual meeting and tonight's meeting, Mr. Palm-Leis remarking about the good behavior of our students and asked what were the ways that the teachers and administrator

are getting this message to our students. Mr. Palm-Leis responded that he and the teaching staff are providing feedback to the students on a daily basis. He has been, and has encouraged the staff to be, amongst the students when they are in the hallways. If and when, students need to be redirected it is done with positive interactions. He will continue to watch and acknowledge good behavior throughout the school year.

9. Action Items -

- A. **MSP(Purinton/Jordan)** to approve the payment of bills in the amount of **\$41,190.71**. Approved 4-0.
- B. **MSP(Jordan/Krueger)** to approve the Robert W. Baird bid with a net effective rate of .8088% to short-term borrow \$440,000 for a total net interest cost of \$3,815.78. bid. Approved 4-0. (The other two bids were from First Merit Bank with 1.08% interest and Baylake Bank with 1.455% interest and a \$500 loan fee.)
- C. **MSP(Purinton/Krueger)** to approve the copier service contract for \$475 per quarter. Approved 4-0.
- D. **MSP(Jordan/Jorgenson)** to approve the teaching contract of Christopher Heitz for the Social Studies/Physical Education teaching position. Approved 4-0.
- E. **MSP(Krueger/Jorgenson)** to approve the replacement of the electrical panel in the Tech Ed Shop. Approved 4-0.
- F. **MSP(Purinton/Jordan)** to approve the School Psychologist Services contract for Dr. Crystal Feral for three visits, two day each, for \$1,500 plus \$450 for travel. Approved 4-0.
- G. **MSP(Purinton/Krueger)** to accept the gift of \$1,000 from the Steve and Marjorie Tobey to help pay for Renaissance Learning. Roll call vote: Krueger (aye), Jordan (aye), Jorgenson (aye), Purinton (aye). Approved 4-0.

ADJOURN

10. Future Meetings

- A. Board of Education - Monthly Meeting - Thursday, October 22, 2015 -There will be a special guest at the meeting, Kim Kaukl, the Executive Director of Wisconsin Rural School Alliance.

MSP (Krueger/Purinton) to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Approved 4-0.