

**Whiteside School District #115  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, October 19, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Whiteside Middle School**

Administrators: Mark Heuring, Monica Laurent, Nathan Rakers, Kim Bossler (joined at 8:00 pm)

Visitors: as noted on the sign-in sheet

**1.0) Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance**

President Rod Euchner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.0) Roll Call of Members**

Board Members present: Jeremy Bochantin, Angela Dickerson, Rod Euchner, Derek Houston, Sean McKee, Christine Mitchell-Endsley, and Nancy Sanchez.

**3.0) Accept / Amend Consent Agenda**

Motion by Sanchez, second by Mitchell-Endsley to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

**4.0) Public Comment**

President Rod Euchner welcomed visitors and members of the WFT.  
No Public Comments.

**5.0) Consent Items**

**5.1) Approval of Minutes from Finance Committee Meeting September 21, 2023**

Motion by Dickerson, second by Sanchez to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting September 21, 2023. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

**5.2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting September 21, 2023**

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Dickerson to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting September 21, 2023. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

**5.3) Approval of Minutes from Closed Session September 21, 2023**

Motion by Sanchez, second by Dickerson to approve the minutes from the Closed Session September 21, 2023. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes,

Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

5.4) Approval of the Minutes from the Public Hearing September 21, 2023

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Bochantin to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing on September 21, 2023. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

5.5) Approval of Treasurers Report

Motion by Bochantin, second by Sanchez to approve the Treasurers Report as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

5.6) Approval of Claims / Bills Payable

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Dickerson to approve the claims / bills payable as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

**6.0) Board Secretary Correspondence**

Mr. Heuring reminded the board of the email that was sent to them regarding a discipline issue.

**7.0) Administrative Reports**

7.1) Elementary Report – Mr. Rakers' reviewed his written report.

Mr. Rakers noted the Veteran's Remembrance Parade has been changed to 9:00 am.

7.2) Middle School Report – Mrs. Laurent reviewed her written report.

Mrs. Laurent added the accomplishments of some of our Middle School band students. We had four students selected to play in the Illinois All District Band. We also had one student, Redmond Jung, selected to play in the Honor Jazz Band as the Lead Alto Sax player.

Mrs. Korak will be performing with other band directors marching in the 2023 Macy's Day Parade.

Mrs. Laurent also updated the board on some activities the SEL committee has been working on. Staff will be helping serve orange chicken one day next week at lunch. This is a very busy day for the cafeteria workers. The committee also put together a playlist of teacher's "drive up" songs. Those songs were played as teachers walked into work today.

7.3) District Superintendent Report – Mr. Heuring reviewed his written report.

**8.0) Committee Reports**

8.1) Mascot Committee

The committee, Kim Bossler, Derek Houston, and Christine Mitchell-Endsley, set a meeting date of November 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm prior to the November Board Meeting.

## 9.0) New Business

Suggestion was made to move the presentations for 9.4 GRP HVAC and 9.5 FGM possible addition to the beginning of New Business

### 9.4) HVAC Project – Presentation by GRP

Fred Weber and Bryan Rucker from GRP presented three options on replacing the middle school hallway units.

Mr. Rucker explained the differences in three options and explained the difference in replacing the controllers vs. not replacing the controllers.

Replacing these three units would cover all the instructional space at the middle school. All units will be size appropriate for the new roof and more efficient than our current units.

There is a 16-18 week lead time on the middle school units.

Mr. Weber and Mr. Rucker also presented an option for replacing the elementary primary unit. This unit covers 22 classrooms including Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. The Elementary Office unit would also be replaced in this proposal.

Mr. Heuring is going to see what money is left in ESSER funds, Maintenance Grants, and Working Cash bonds before bringing a motion to the board.

Motion tabled.

### 9.5) Elementary School Building Project FGM

Emily Spindler from FGM presented Conceptual renderings for the proposed new addition to the Elementary Building. The addition will include additional classrooms to eliminate the temporary buildings, additional restrooms, and changes to the traffic flow. She stressed that all of this is preliminary and can be changed.

Members expressed concerns over it appearing to have a great deal of parking, several entrances and exits, and the size of the playground. Mr. Rakers gave input about concerns with the entrances and exits, playground, and a space for them to have gross motor still time (a mini multi-purpose room).

No motion at this time.

### 9.1) Chromebook Purchase

Motion by Bochantin, second by Mitchell-Endsley to approve the purchase of 100 Chromebooks as presented. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

### 9.2) Policy 6:135 review

Mr. Heuring reviewed updates to the Policy 6:135.

Discussion by the board regarding what the student would do in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for curriculum if it is not available through the school. Possible solutions would be curriculum paid for by the parents or an intergovernmental agreement with the High

School. There is not guarantee of curriculum beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade material. Some members felt this policy was more aimed at High School advance placement, not middle school.

Discussion regarding need for an application fee, who makes final decision, and the increased work load on staff.

Motion by Bochantin, second by Houston to approve handbook policy for acceleration in regards to Policy 6:135. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – no, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

9.3) Challenge Program Review

Mr. Heuring gave the board some background on why there has not been a Challenge Program in recent years.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of a Challenge Program and the need to fill required classroom positions first.

Suggestions were made for programs such as Odyssey of the Mind that might reach more students.

Motion by Houston, second by Sanchez to table the decision on restarting the past Challenge Program. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

9.6) Referendum Planning Committee Formation

Motion by Houston, second by Mitchell-Endsley to form a Referendum Planning Committee. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Jeremy Bochantin and Derek Houston, from the board, along with Mrs. Laurent will serve on the Planning Committee. Mr. Heuring will send an email to staff to see if there is any interest from them to be on the committee.

9.7) Elementary Door Project

Motion by Bochantin, second by Sanchez to approve FGM to submit an amendment for the amount of \$19,200 for the replacement of one exterior door assembly and all related hardware and access control. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, McKee – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

**10.0) Closed Session**

Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Sanchez to enter closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee(s), discussion of district legal matters / pending litigation and student discipline matters. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Board went into closed session at 8:57 pm.

Sean McKee left the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Motion by Dickerson, second by Mitchell-Endsley to return to open session. Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Board returned to open session at 9:57 pm.

## 11.0) Action Items Following Closed Session

### 11.1) Approval of Tuition Reimbursements

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to approve the tuition reimbursement of Steve Barr. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

### 11.2) Employment of Paraprofessionals

11.2)1. Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to employ Elizabeth Adkins, Elementary School ICA. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

11.2)2. Move the previous roll for Marilyn Tennant – ES Paraprofessional. Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

11.2)3. Move the previous roll for Rebecca Jenkins – ES Paraprofessional. Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

11.2)4. Move the previous roll for Stephanie Stock – MS Paraprofessional. Tabled.

### 11.3) Approval of Coaches / Sponsors

None at this time.

### 11.4) Maternity Leave

None at this time

### 11.5) Retirement of District Staff

No motion to accept the retirement of Kristy Frazer, ESP Coordinator. Motion failed.

### 11.6) Employment of ESP Staff

11.6)1. Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to employ Robert Bleich as an ESP worker for the current school year. Roll Call: Bochantin – yes, Dickerson – yes, Euchner – yes, Houston – yes, Mitchell-Endsley – yes, Sanchez – yes. Motion carried.

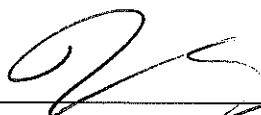
11.6)2. Move the previous roll for Ashley Harris. Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

11.2)1.

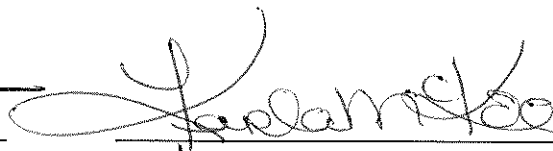
## 12.0) Adjournment

Having no further business motion by Houston, second by Dickerson to adjourn. Ayes – 6, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.



Rod Euchner, President



Karla McKee, Secretary