

Regular Board Meeting of March 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Whitehall School District 4, 47 and 2 of Madison and Jefferson Counties was held on March 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Whitehall High School.

Board Members:

Gina Ossello
Jeff Briggs
Scott Prevost
Bill Whitehurst
James Reiff
Paul Shaw

Administrators:

John T. Sullivan, Superintendent
Patti Drake, District Clerk
Hannah Nieskens, 6-12 Principal
Kurtis Koenig, K-5 Principal

Visitors: None

AGENDA

ITEM:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Gina Ossello

Flag Salute

Approval of Agenda

James Reiff made a joint motion to approve the agenda.

Scott Prevost seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Visitors

The visitors were welcomed to the meeting and were told that a public comment period for matters of a general nature would be held later in the meeting.

Minutes

Jeff Briggs made a joint motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 6, 2019

Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal

(See attached) The attendance on the late start days was in the upper 60th percentile. We had students out for the weather and also illnesses. Parent Teacher conferences are being well attended.

High School Principal

(See attached) The attendance for the middle school students was in the 80th percentile, the high school was a little lower than that.

Superintendent

(See attached) Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has accepted the resignation of 2nd grade teacher MiRanda Foley. Also Lynnsey Moen has informed the him that she has been called up for active duty for 1 year. She will be returning for the 2020-2021 school year. He will advertise for an elementary position.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update

The planning committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 20th. The head of the committees will present their committees recommendations. A final document will be presented to the board at the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Drivers' Education

We will only have one session of drivers' ed this year. It will begin on March 11th with a parent meeting and complete in June. Currently there are 23 students enrolled. Melissa Robbins will be teaching the course again this year.

Staff Hire

Mr. Sullivan asked the board to approve the hiring of Gayle Walter as head middle school track coach and Cori Koenig as the assistant middle school track coach.

James Reiff made an elementary motion to hire Gayle Walter and Cori Koenig as the middle school track coaches.

Scott Prevost seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Substitute Staff

Mr. Sullivan asked the board to approve the hiring of Deryk Russel and Megan Lombardi as substitutes.

Scott Prevost made a joint motion to hire Deryk Russell and Megan Lombardi as substitutes.

Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

**Elementary (K-5) Principal –
Evaluation/Recommend for Rehire**

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has completed the evaluation of Mr. Koenig. He has done an outstanding job for his first year. He has done everything he has been asked to do and he is very professional. Mr. Sullivan recommended the board rehire Mr. Koenig.

James Reiff made an elementary motion to rehire Mr. Koenig for the K-5 Principal position.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff

Opposed: None

Motion carried

**High School (6-12) Principal –
Evaluation/Recommend for Rehire**

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has completed the evaluation of Ms. Nieskens. We are fortunate to have her, she is level headed, makes good decisions, and has the respect of the staff and students. Mr. Sullivan recommended the board rehire Ms. Nieskens.

Bill Whitehurst made a high school motion to rehire Ms. Nieskens.

Scott Prevost seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

SB 307 Resolution

The 2016 Legislature gave the school districts the authority to break the building reserve fund into sub funds. This also gives the districts the authority to levy the taxpayers without a vote. The district has to notify the taxpayers that the district may impose this levy. The resolution needs to be approved by the board and a notice has to be published in the local paper.

Jamie Reiff made an elementary motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Paul Shaw made a high school motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies.

James Reiff seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Technology Levy

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Technology committee discussed the possibility of running a technology levy. The current elementary levy was run in 2003 for \$19,900 and the high school levy was run in 2008 for \$20,100. They are both perpetual levies which means we have them forever. If you do run a new levy in both districts they are only good for 10 years. If the levies pass we would lose our current levies, but if they didn't pass we would still have the current levies. Mr. Sullivan said we are probably looking at \$50,000 in each district. He would like the board to think about this for a month and discuss it at the April board meeting.

Resignation – Superintendent

Mr. Sullivan presented his letter of resignation to the board. The resignation is effective July 31, 2019. Mr. Koenig thanked Mr. Sullivan for being a part of his 15 years in the education profession. Ms. Nieskens said he has been the best administrator she has worked with. Gina thanked him and said he has done a phenomenal job for our district. Paul thanked him for turning everything around at the district.

James Reiff made a joint motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Sullivan.

Scott Prevost seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst
Opposed: None
Motion carried

**Discussion – Superintendent/6-12
Principal**

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that they have a couple of options in filling this position. The board can direct him to advertise the superintendent position on the OPI website or advertise in-house. He feels we have a qualified candidate in-house, Ms. Nieskens. If the position is filled by Ms. Nieskens, then the 6-12 Principal position will be advertised. He would like the board to give him some direction on the steps that need to be taken. The board would like Mr. Sullivan to advertise the position in-house.

Approve 2019-2020 School Calendar

Mr. Sullivan presented the board the 2019-2020 school calendar that was voted on by the staff. The staff had the chance to vote two times. The first vote was to narrow the choice down from 3 calendars to 2 calendars. The second vote was to decide on the final calendar. The board questioned the reasoning of starting late having such a long Christmas break and going into June. Mr. Sullivan informed them that there was a calendar that started and ended earlier but it was rejected.

Scott Prevost made a joint motion to accept the 2019-2020 school calendar that was submitted.

Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: Paul Shaw

Motion carried

Claims and Accounts

Claims approval list was presented to the board.

Paul Shaw made a high school motion to approve payment of the high school claims for March as submitted.

Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

James Reiff made an elementary motion to approve payment of the elementary claims for March as submitted.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Meeting

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Shaw made a joint motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, James Reiff, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk