

School Board Meeting – February 21, 2023
Regular Session

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 7:00 P.M.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of School Trustees of the John Glenn School Corporation met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on February 7, 2023, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Bob Borlik, Jared Egger, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix, Todd McGaughey and Carissa Smith. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 18 observers were present. Christine Carson was absent.

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISERS (WES, NLES, UMS, JGHS)

Walkerton Elementary School:

- Donations
 - Falcon 500 \$125 5th Grade
 - Goalsetters (Reimbursement) \$1599.99 Faulty Rim
 - Anonymous \$265 Donations from Art/Music Program

Urey Middle School

- Donations
 - Dawn’s Country Catering \$100 Wrestling

John Glenn High School:

- Donations
 - Falcon 500 \$200 Top 10% Banquet
 - Linda Parker \$2000 Falloween Scholarships
 - Catherine Reese \$1000 Athletics/Dick Reese Classic

Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve the above named donations and fundraisers, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public made comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 3

1. Approve Minutes – February 7, 2023 – Regular Session
2. Approve Claims – 131 - 186
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Resignations/Retirements

- a. Kimberly Stull Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School
- b. Ted Hayden Girls Basketball Head Coach, John Glenn High School

- c. Jacob Matzinger Special Education Teacher, Urey Middle School

Appointments

- a. Andrea Hoppe Student Tutor, Walkerton Elementary School
b. Roger Dittmar 6th Grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School

Mr. Bob Borlik made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 – 3 and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing on Project and Second Preliminary Determination

Mr. Winchell noted that this public hearing will cover two hearings in one public forum. Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-7, before a school corporation spends more than \$1 million of bond proceeds to build, repair or alter a school building; it must hold a public hearing. At such hearing, the potential value of the project to the School Corporation and community will be explained. The hearing is open to the public to comment. Additionally, pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20, before a school corporation enters into a lease and/or issues bonds for the construction of renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excess of certain thresholds it must hold a public hearing on its preliminary determination to do so. The hearing is open to the public for comment as well. Mr. Winchell then explained that we will be opening up the floor for public comment to hear from constituents who may be in favor of the building project that we have been discussing at the last few meetings, as well as hear from those who may have concerns regarding said project. We will also welcome public comment regarding the financing of the project.

Mr. Winchell welcomed Karen from Barton Coe Vilamaa and Lisa Huntington from Baker Tilly to explain what the proposed project will entail and the financing to do so. Karen from BCV provided a brief outline of the project. Looking at Walkerton we will focus on HVAC units in the classrooms, hallways, gym, cafeteria and library, interior and exterior doors and locker rooms/restrooms by the gymnasium. At NLES, we hope to tackle interior and exterior doors and HVAC units in large areas that were not covered by the last project scope. During our last project, our project scope focused on 75% of projects at North Liberty and only 25% at Walkerton Elementary. With the project scope, those percentages are reversed. Mr. Winchell added that it is appropriate to note that this project and HVAC improvements will greatly improve the atmospheric conditions for both students and employees. Some classrooms are struggling with this currently. The door replacements will provide a greater level of security. Repairing these sorts of items allows us to remain fiscally responsible which ultimately allows us to maintain student programming and expand it when able. Lisa Huntington reminded the board that it is the plan to finance this project with a \$10 million bond with an interest rate not to exceed 6% and a maximum repayment term not to exceed twenty years. This will result in a slight increase to the 2023 tax rate which in turn will make it equal to the 2022 tax rate. When the corporation was planning for this project we were planning to be tax neutral with the 2022 tax rate. Due to the property value increase, which resulted in a decrease in our tax rate in 2023, this bond is a slight tax rate increase because it takes us back to the 2022 tax rate level. The median house value for a home in our corporation is \$130,300 which will result in \$1.32/month tax impact, or yearly impact of \$15.79 which is an extremely modest increase. Mr. Christian Mattix asked if Greene Township will do anything to change these tax rates. Mr. Winchell explained that the assessed value of Greene Township will play into our future tax rates beginning in 2024. We are establishing this bond without the Greene Township constituents but future bonds will be impacted by Greene joining us.

Mr. Christian Mattix opened the hearing at 7:28 PM, with no public comment being heard, the hearing was closed at 7:30 PM.

2. Approve Project Resolution (Exhibit A)

Mr. Winchell noted that this project will follow the scope as noted above and shared by our Barton Coe Vilamaa teammates. Mr. Ryan Knowlton asked for clarification on when this project will go out for bid. Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that pending board approval tonight, we will notify the public of the Board's decision which will start a 30 day petition remonstrance period. If no one petitions against us, we will seek permission from the Board to sell the bonds at the first meeting in April. The project will be put out to bid officially sometime between April and August. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Project Resolution and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

3. Approve Preliminary Determination Resolution (Exhibit B)

Mr. Christian Mattix explained that this resolution is approving the intent to finance the project as described. Mr. Todd McGaughey asked if we take a 20 year term, could we pay it off sooner because he knows that this project is really just a portion of things that need to be done to improve our buildings. Mr. Winchell noted that on the day of the sale, we may decide that based on the interest rate, it is best to take a 14 year term, for example, rather than a 20 year term. By approving this resolution tonight, we are agreeing that it will not be longer than a twenty year term. He further explained that sometimes it is best to take the longer term and lower payment to allow for more flexibility to do further projects and trusts that Baker Tilly will help us make the best decision. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Preliminary Determination Resolution and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with vote of six to zero.

4. Approve Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures (Exhibit C)

Mr. Christian Mattix noted that the corporation can pay for expenses prior to receiving the bond money, and then reimburse ourselves. Mr. Knowlton asked if this would give us the flexibility to start some of the project prior to receiving the bond monies and Mr. Winchell confirmed that yes, this would allow us to work on some smaller projects that are not necessarily part of the main scope of the project. He further explained that a good example of this type of expense is title work that needs to be done prior to closing. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures (Exhibit C) and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- There was a retirement workshop held today.
- The Boys Basketball sectional draw was held over the weekend. We will play Tippy Valley on Tuesday at Knox.
- I have had a lot of fun filling in for Mr. Crone at Urey the last several weeks. Mr. Crone will be back full time in the next week.
- There are a lot of rumors around the community about the NIC, with the possibility of closing of schools in South Bend and some conversations of changing athletic conferences. Some of the things that are being said are just rumors, but there is some legitimacy to JG at least exploring the possibility of a new conference.
- I am happy to report that this is a "normal" February. With the nice weather, the schools are a buzz of activity.

- We appreciate the Board and community support. There are a lot of projects going on so thank you all.
- It is our tradition to not hold a second meeting in March since it usually falls during our spring break. We will not need to do any additional work for the bond until the first meeting in April so it is appropriate to only meet the first meeting in March. Mr. Knowlton asked that we please make sure this is communicated to the public.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 7, 2023 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Christian Mattix called the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
