

School Board Meeting – May 2, 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 May 2, 2023, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Christine Carson, Jared Egger, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix, Todd McGaughey and Carissa Smith. Bob Borlik was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 19 observers were present.

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

John Glenn High School:

➤ Donations

○ Falcon 500	\$50	Falcon Mascot Costume
○ John Glenn Education Foundation	\$1000	Yearbook
○ Tri Kappa	\$200	E-Sports
○ Patron Donations at Choir Concert	\$101	Falcon Mascot Costumer

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve the above named donations and fundraisers, and Mrs. Christine Carson 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 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – April 4, 2023 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers 3/28/2023 to 4/20/2023 in the amount of \$1,100,631.54
3. Approve Employee Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Mike Clark | Teacher, John Glenn High School |
| b. LuAnn Malstaff | Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School |
| c. Sophie Flora | Speech Language Pathologist Assistant, John Glenn School Corporation |

Appointments

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| a. Landon Moore | 5 th Grade Girls B-team Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School |
| b. Carrie Wilton | 6 th Grade Girls B-team Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School |
| c. Marla Vermilyer | 6 th Grade Girls B-team Basketball Coach, Walkerton Elementary School |

Transfers

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a. Brian Bogard | Transfer from 6 th Grade Girls A-team Basketball Coach, North |
|-----------------|--|

Liberty Elementary School to Girls Basketball Varsity Assistant
Coach, John Glenn High School

4. Approve FMLA Request for Employee #2232

Mr. Winchell noted that Mr. Clark should be commended for his 33 years of dedicated service to John Glenn. As a John Glenn Alum and after 39 years in public education, Mike has been a friend and mentor, not only to the students he has taught but to many fellow educators. Everyone has learned something from Mr. Clark, he always swoops in at the perfect time with good advice.

Mrs. Malstaff will also be missed as the librarian at Walkerton Elementary School. She has had the pleasure to influence so many kids in her 17 years with JGSC.

Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-4 and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Early Graduates

Mr. Winchell noted that while we encourage kids not to grow up too fast, we realize that in certain situations, it makes sense for some students to graduate early. It takes official board action for a student to graduate prior to the completion of the traditional eight semesters. Mr. Manering introduced Lacie Mattke and Madison Tyner as our two early graduates. Both students have worked ahead and completed all graduation requirements whom he highly recommends for early graduation. Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Early Graduates and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

2. Approve Shared Dietician Service Contract

Mr. Winchell explained that school corporations are required to have their menus reviewed by a registered dietician. Rather than employ our own dietician, this is a service that we can access through our partnership with the Northern Indiana Educational Service Center (NIESC). The cost is \$4,500 per year, which is well below our spending threshold of \$75,000, but since it is a service contract, it is appropriate for the Board to take official action to approve the contract. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Shared Dietician Service Contract and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

3. Approve Resolution Determining Need for Project (Exhibit A)

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that we are in the process of a \$10 million bond and facilities project as part of our ongoing Master Facilities Plan that we started in 2019 and are planning through 2025 and beyond. The menu of items to be completed was shared again with the Board to review along with updated maps/plans of what this project scope will include. As we talk about this resolution, it is important to note that we have been through a lengthy process of recognizing the current state of our facilities and putting together a plan to address those facilities. This resolution takes action to officially determine the need for this \$10 million project and thus the need for \$10 million in bonds. Mr. Jared Egger made motion to approve Resolution Determining Need to Project (Exhibit A) and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

4. Approve Resolution Approving form of Lease Agreement (Exhibit B)

Mr. Winchell explained that we have two different ways to borrow money as a school. A general obligation bond, often referred to as a GO Bond, that has a statutory limit on how much we can take based on our assessed valuation. Similar to a credit card, there is no collateral for this type of bond, but there is a credit limit. The other way a school corporation can borrow money is through a lease rental bond. In a lease rental bond, you are actually mortgaging a portion of your school as collateral for the bond. Similar to a home equity loan, you are generally able to borrow a lot more money when you have something to offer as collateral. Our statutory GO Bond maximum is between \$2-3 million if all of our bonding capacity is available. Since we would like to borrow more than that, we are asking the Board to approve us using this process of forming a lease agreement where we will be mortgaging a portion of Walkerton Elementary School to the John Glenn Building Corporation. Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Resolution Approving form of Lease Agreement (Exhibit B) and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. Mr. Winchell again reiterated that it is our intention to take a \$10 million bond for no longer than 20 years at no more than 6% interest rate and we will mortgage a portion of Walkerton Elementary School to the John Glenn Building Corporation as collateral. This agreement is our way of saying that we will pay them the yearly lease fee until we purchase that portion of the building back from them. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

5. Approve Resolution Reapproving Building Corporation (Exhibit C)

Mr. Winchell noted that statutorily we can't lease the building to ourselves, but we can create the entity that we then lease the building to. This action item will reapprove the John Glenn High School Building Corporation as our building corporation that has the authority to hold the lease that we have been discussing. We used this same building corporation for the 2020 Series Bond we used for the North Liberty project. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Resolution Reapproving Building Corporation (Exhibit C) and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

6. Approve Summer School Staff for 2023

Mr. Winchell noted that Summer School is an additional contract in addition to what we refer to as the normal teacher contract which requires the Board approval to approve the supplemental summer school contracts. This is our normal past practice. Our principals work very closely with our teachers and parents to identify students who would benefit from summer school and then Mr. Davis determines the staffing needs. Those positions are then posted in a way agreed upon with the teachers union. This results in the list that is before you tonight. We want to hold summer school for as many kids as want to attend. We have been running summer school for a very long time at John Glenn and we do get some reimbursement from the state. There is a certain amount in the state line item that is then divided by the number of schools who are offering summer school. There was a time that we were getting reimbursed 110% for summer school services when we were one of the only corporations offering such a robust summer program. A lot of schools are now doing it and last year we received approximately 50% back. We would offer summer school for our students regardless of the reimbursement but it is nice to get some of it back. Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Summer School Staff for 2023 and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Director of Learning – Mr. Tim Davis

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- Last Sunday the Senior Board organized a very well attended and meaningful baccalaureate program. It was a great way to begin the graduation process.

- We are in the midst of iLearn testing. Grades 3-8 have wrapped up for the most part with a few make-ups left to do. Biology iLearn started today and will wrap up next week. AP Testing will begin next week at the high school as well.
- We are gearing up for summer activities. You approved the Summer School Staffing earlier tonight, there will also be summer camps offered. Mr. Groves and the operations team are working on summer cleaning lists and plans for summer projects. The summer is coming quick!
- Our food program will be held at Walkerton Elementary, Urey and the high school for ages 1-18 for breakfast and lunch.
- We are working on staffing for next year. Principals have been interviewing for open positions.

2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- Prom was held this past weekend and it was excellent.
- The Walkerton Elementary reading reward at the South Bend Cubs game. Even though the weather wasn't cooperating, the families and kids seemed to have a good time.
- We are really proud of our 100% graduation rate and we continue to get a lot of good press as a result of it. If you didn't catch it, WSBT did a story about us during their "Crisis in Education" segment, make sure you look it up. We were sure to highlight that there is no crisis in education here at John Glenn.
- We are still working through the JESSE dissolution. We did submit a letter to the JESSE Board that we intend to dissolve our partnership with them at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. We are still working through our options for the 2024-2025 school year. We spend about \$300,000 a year for special education services through JESSE. We know that we will need to employ more specialized special education staff and will have more obligations with reporting. This will also bring additional operations staff. We have been working closely with Mr. Kaminski and a special education firm that he recommends to his clients to get guidance specially related to John Glenn. We currently share services with Union-North and we are looking very closely at what our special education services look like if we continue a partnership with Union-North, or if we continue providing our own services.
- The Athletic Directors of the six schools of our new athletic conference have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure everything inline for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. There may be some scheduling changes for next year but mostly the following year.
- We currently have nine licensed staff members who have resigned or decided to retire. We have three licensed positions that we plan to add for class-size reduction at Walkerton Elementary. That is 12 licensed positions that we need at the moment. We have two major ECA openings with 5-8 athletics and 5-12 choir which are both very important. We have six anticipated education support staff members that we know will not be back next year and five operational staff members who will not return for the 2023-2024 school year. We talk about staffing a lot, but I wanted to quantify how many open positions that we currently have as of the first week of May. As of now, we have 21 open positions which will be a large undertaking to advertise, interview and on-board all of these positions. We anticipate more vacancies throughout the next few months.
- Commencement will be Friday, May 27th at 7pm rain or shine. If the weather is good, we will be outside, if it is raining, we will be in TCU gym.
- One week from tonight, May 9th is the Region 2 ISBA Spring Conference in Plymouth.
- We are set to sell bonds on June 6th, put our project out for construction review on July 11th and received bids on August 8th and accept or officially review bids on August 15th. Construction will start shortly after.
- The ISBA event will be good to attend as they will provide an overall update of the 48 laws that were passed during the legislative session that will directly impact public education.

ISBA has been closely following and reviewing each of these changes. The state approved budget run was just finalized and it is important to point out that the House usually runs a budget, then the Senate runs a budget. Then they usually meet in the middle. To everyone's surprise, the first budget that was released was much different than what was expected. There was a call to action and we got in touch with local legislators and our Senators asking them humbly reconsider the budget. This is very unprecedented and has never happened before. The result was in our favor and our call to action was successful. The budget that is in front of you is approximately a 6.1% increase for year one and approximately 1.4% increase for year two. We are very fiscally responsible here at JG. We go right to the per student amount we are currently getting and compare it to what we will be getting for the next two years. For 2023-2024 we will get about \$350 per student more than this currently school year. For 2024-2025 we will get an additional \$100 more per student. Mr. Bendy added that the formulas are based on student counts. These numbers are going to change, but by looking at our foundational per student amount, we can budget appropriately. We want to do a great job serving all of our families we have now, and when we feel we have the ability, we will expand to even more neighboring communities.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Awards Night – May 4, 2023 – 7pm – JGHS Auditorium
NLES PTO Fun Fair – May 5, 2023 – 5pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 16, 2023 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Christian Mattix called the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
