

## School Board Meeting – February 7, 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, Christine Carson, Todd McGaughey and Carissa Smith. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 45 observers were present through building recognitions. Fourteen observers were present for the business portion of the meeting.

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

#### Walkerton Elementary School:

- Donations
  - Falcon 500 \$200 Title 1 Family Nights
  - Nicole Kazmirski \$200 Lunch Fees
  - Box Tops \$38.40

#### North Liberty Elementary School:

- Fundraiser
  - Shamrock Shout Out March Candy Grams

#### Urey Middle School

- Donations
  - Sean & Mackenzie Liedtky \$200 Student Lunch Accounts
  - Good 2 Go Laundry (Michael Myers) \$1000 Wrestling Team Spirit Wear
  - German & Asian Concepts (Korey Pulluaim) \$1036 Wrestling Team Spirit Wear

#### John Glenn High School:

- Donations
  - A&M (Jarrod McQueen) Siding and Soffit Materials

Mr. Winchell noted his appreciation to all in attendance, particularly the parents and families who invest their time so that their students can participate in all the wonderful activities that we have to offer at JGSC. A special thank you to Mrs. Reynolds for sharing how important guidance counselors are in the wake of National School Guidance Counselor week. In all the adversity that we see in today's life, it is harder than ever to be a kid. Anything we can do as a school corporation to support our kids is so important and our guidance counselors are on that front line. This has been part of our ongoing student program and staff growth plan as we have added four special education teachers (one at each building), an additional guidance counselor at the high school, and some interventionist at our elementary schools along with some class size reduction positions. We have at least ten additional licensed staff members than we had back in 2019 to assist our students. We invest in our students with a growing staff, and would add even more if we had the funds to do so.

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 seven to zero.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public made comment at this time.

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 3

1. Approve Minutes – January 24, 2023 – Regular Session
2. Approve Claims – 1 – 130
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

### *Resignations/Retirements*

- a. Derek Meilaender                      Choral Director, John Glenn High School and Urey Middle School  
Vocal Music Director, John Glenn High School and Urey Middle School

### *Appointments/Transfers*

- a. Jamie Beeney                              Instructional Aide, North Liberty Elementary School
- b. Brittany Pickett                          Regular Route Bus Driver, John Glenn School Corporation
- c. Joe Stanley                                  Boys Track Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School
- d. Cristyn Messick                          Girls Tennis Head Coach, John Glenn High School
- e. Beth Griffey                                Student Tutor, North Liberty Elementary School

Mrs. Christine Carson commented that the resignation of our Choral Director is concerning since it seems that we are unable to retain a member of the team that will help maintain the past excellence that our Fine Arts Department is accustomed to. She hopes that we will find the right fit to continue our excellent history.

Mr. Winchell noted that while we are always extra mindful when sharing about personnel items during consent agenda, it is appropriate to share that in a conversation with Mr. Meilaender, he shared that he was very disappointed that he is no longer able to maintain his employment with us due to a very serious continued health issue. Thanks to Mrs. Carson for reminding us all what an elite Fine Arts Program we have had here at John Glenn. The administrative team is working very hard not only to hire the best and brightest teammates, but to retain the ones who are already part of our team. The landscape has changed drastically when hiring public school teachers. When Gordon Mosson retired, we had over 70 applicants for one social studies position. A few years later, the same social studies position was open again and we only had 9 applicants. We recently had the same position open a third time and we had zero applicants. We were fortunate that Mr. Simpson, who had been filling a temporary position with us, loved working in the John Glenn environment, and decided to stay to fill our position permanently. The candidate pool just isn't what it used to be especially in specialty positions such as fine arts and FACS but we work very hard to find the best candidates. Mr. Egger added that this is not just an issue at John Glenn but state wide.

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 – 3 and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of seven to zero.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Amended 2023-2024 Calendar

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that we needed to rotate Fallween amusement companies for the upcoming festival this fall and have found a family operated company that we feel will fit in very well with our John Glenn community. Unfortunately, they are not able to come on the third weekend of September that we are accustomed to but rather one week later. This required us to go to the teachers

union and the Board to ask permission to shift our Falloween Monday from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the same calendar year, state legislature changed regarding how many days of asynchronous eLearning that we can have in one school year capping it at three days. After discussion with the teachers union, we felt it was best to add back snow make-up dates and then have the availability to use the three eLearning days allowed by the state. This required us to shift our last day of school to May 22<sup>nd</sup> rather than May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a joint recommendation from the administration team and teacher union to make these calendar adjustments. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Amended 2023-2024 Calendar and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of seven to zero.

## 2. Approve Contract with Huseman Amusement Company

Mr. Winchell noted that it is our recommendation that we partner with Huseman Amusement Company for our festival this coming year. Most of the planning for Falloween is conducted by the Falloween Committee led by Mr. Will Morton and Mr. Manering but in conversation with Mr. Kaminski, Corporation Attorney, he suggested it is best practice of the Board to approve this sort of contract. Mr. Kaminski has reviewed the contract and stated that it is in line with all statutes. Even though the Board has not approved the prior agreements, it is appropriate to approve it at this time (due to switching companies). Mr. Borlik asked about liability insurance. Mr. Winchell noted that the amusement company carries a \$1 million policy and the school carries an additional insurance policy for that weekend. Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Contract with Huseman Amusement Company and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of seven to zero.

## 3. Public Hearing on First Preliminary Determination

Mr. Winchell informed the Board that it is important to note that we are meeting a statutory requirement of holding a public hearing prior to making a determination on any bonds or building projects pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.1 that states a school corporation must hold two public hearings and adopt a resolution to preliminarily determine to issue bonds or enter a lease or project which has a total cost of a non-controlled project. In layman's terms, this means that if we were taking less than six million dollars in bonding, the process is different than if we are taking ten million dollars in bonding. The preliminary proposal we are making is \$10 million so this is the statutory path we are taking. We have teammates from Baker Tilly, who assist as our municipal advisors with all things bond related, and Barton Coe Vilamaa who assist with project planning, with us tonight. We have previously shared a full project scope of hopes and dreams that totaled roughly \$17 million for WES and NLES, not including Urey or the high school. Back in 2020, we did a similar project of HVAC, solar, roofing and other items that was able to complete approximately 75% of the projects at North Liberty and start approximately 25% of the projects at Walkerton Elementary. This current project will hopefully complete the remaining 75% at Walkerton Elementary and finish up the final 25% at North Liberty. The \$17 million list has been whittled down to \$10,087,570, keep in mind that these are budgeted estimates from our friends at Barton Coe Vilamaa. If the Board decides to move forward, it is our hope that when the projects are put out for bid, the bids come in lower than these budget estimates. Last time we put projects out to bid, all bids came in under budget and we hope to be that lucky again. The following projects will be part of the base bid at Walkerton Elementary: classroom ceilings, heating/cooling, doors and door frames and insulation, main vestibule door replacement, exterior door replacement, canopy redesign, office staff restroom reconfiguration, locker room area restrooms, HVAC terminal devices, improve HVAC in the office, replace exhaust fans and replace older electrical panels. At North Liberty we hope to replace the remaining HVAC terminal devices, HVAC in the music room, kitchen and media center controls, improve the HVAC in the main office, new classroom doors and frames and new exterior doors. We were able to address the classrooms at North Liberty with the last project, now we are finishing the common areas. As for alternates for this project, at Walkerton we hope to be able to address classroom paint, new doors and frames, classroom bathrooms, new carpeting and new cabinetry as well as new ceilings and paint in the hallways, office and media center, and finally replace air handlers in the cafeteria, gym and media center. We may not be able to do all of these things at one time, but in reality we know we will need to break it into smaller pieces. If

all goes as planned, we hope to begin construction in August of 2023 and finish August 2024. We hope that this will provide us more competitive bidding since we are willing to have construction ongoing through the school year.

Lisa Huntington from Baker Tilly shared that our corporation will be paying off some past debts and that will allow us to finance these current projects with minimal impact to taxes. The information tonight is to share the maximum parameters of funding this project. The potential bond will be no more than \$10 million, it will be repaid in no more than 20 years, with an interest rate of no more than 6%. It is very possible that when the bonds are sold, it is more favorable, therefore less expensive. As we have been putting this facilities plan together since 2019, when we were planning this over a year ago, it was our intention to maintain the same tax rate that the school district had in 2022. Due to property values going up in our area and our ongoing work to be as fiscally responsible as possible, we saw a slight decrease in the tax rate for 2023. This will result in a slight increase to the 2023 tax rate. Once the bonds are purchased, we will have a more detailed budget and repayment plan that will be carefully crafted specific to our corporation needs. Tonight we are providing the potential project scope, as well as potential bonding options. Mr. Christian Mattix opened the public hearing at 7:59 P.M., with one public comment being heard in regards to what type of bonds we plan to take, Mr. Winchell informed her they are lease rental bonds. The hearing was closed at 8:00 P.M. There is no official action to be taken at this time, but if questions should arise in the next two weeks, we will be holding a second preliminary determination hearing on February 21<sup>st</sup> and would welcome questions at that time.

## REPORTS

### 1. Director of Learning Report

Mr. Davis noted the following:

- The fire system at the John Glenn Early Learning Center (St. Pat's) is 100% completed. We held our first fire drill there last week and everything is working as it should.
- On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Davis, Mr. Romer and Dr. Fuller attended the textbook caravan at Swan Lake with a team of teachers who are working to select the new science textbook materials. The team hopes to make a selection very soon.
- There will be a retirement workshop on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:15 in the high school auditorium. We currently have over 65 staff members signed up to learn more about the retirement process.
- On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the National Honor Society hosted a blood drive where over 40 units of blood were collected. It was a great community outreach.

### 2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- The Girls Basketball Team made it to the Sectional Finals over the last weekend. They were playing their best basketball at the end of the season.
- The boys' basketball sectional draw will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> and they are hard preparing for the end of their season.
- Good Luck to the wrestling team who had nine wrestlers qualify for Regionals and three of the nine qualified for Semi-state. Brody King, Bentley Whitmer and Mason Kobelt will compete this coming weekend for a chance to compete at East Chicago.
- Performers from Oliver the Musical will be at our next meeting to give us a preview of their upcoming show which will be held on March 10-12.
- We often talk about extending student programming and we are excited to report that next year we will be expanding the Jazz Band to be a class during the school day rather than just an extracurricular activity.

- We have strategically rolled out the information about our 100% graduation rate for the 2021-2022 school year. In an effort to share this good news with our and neighboring communities, we have been working on placing some advertisements in local newspapers and strategically selected billboards. Mr. Borlik asked if we were the largest school to have a 100% graduation rate, and Mr. Winchell confirmed that we were the largest.
- We have made contact with the St. Joseph County Clerk’s Office and they have verbally confirmed that no one filed a petition remonstrance against our Greene Township Resolution. They should be preparing something in writing as soon as the new Clerk has the opportunity to provide it. We have also reached out to SBCSC to get an updated list of their students in Greene Township so that we can reach out to them to inform them of the change and the plans for them to attend JGSC.
- I have had the pleasure to help out at Urey Middle School for the last few weeks. Mr. Crone took a fall and broke his elbow so while he has been out, I have been trying to help Mr. Goewert. I share this to remind everyone that our corporation is full of leaders who are working foreman who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and do what is best for kids.
- Chief Schalliol is here tonight to share about the new Flock cameras that the town has been trialing for the last two months. These cameras are able to record the each vehicle who enters and exits the Town of Walkerton. This information is then run through a national crime data base that will immediately send a message to all local law enforcement alerting them that a vehicle wanted in relation to a crime or criminal alert, has been located in our area. We have been trialing ten of these cameras and plan to keep six of them going forward. The Town has it in their budget to cover four of the cameras, the Lincoln Township Trustee is going to cover one and the Corporation is going to cover one. The cost is approximately \$2500 per year. These cameras are located on the main roads entering and exiting the town limits. This is a great extension of our ongoing safety plan.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Knowlton asked Mr. Groves if we had received the school buses that were ordered in September of 2021, and we have not received them yet, but know they are in production.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 21, 2023      7:00 P.M.   Admin Building   Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Christian Mattix called the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

PRES. \_\_\_\_\_

SEC'Y. \_\_\_\_\_

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