

School Board Meeting – September 17, 2024 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 September 17, 2024, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Bob Borlik, Christine Carson, Ryan Knowlton, Todd McGaughey, Christian Mattix, and Carissa Smith. Jared Egger was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 9 observers were present throughout the meeting.

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

Walkerton Elementary School

- Fundraisers
 - 5th Grade Candy Bar Sales
 - School-wide School Store Fundraiser

John Glenn High School

- Donations
 - A&M Home Services \$2000 Boys Basketball
 - American Legion Post 189 \$250 Cross Country
 - Bob’s Country Store \$150 Falloween
 - Jared and Ashlee Egger \$250 Girls Basketball
 - Falcon 500 \$179 Spell Bowl
 - Falcon 500 \$200 Girls Basketball
 - Roger and Shirley Hamilton \$350 Drama
 - Hesters Insurance Group \$100 Cross Country
 - Glenn and Lorraine Jacob \$100 Drama
 - John M. Small Insurance \$125 Drama
 - Kronk Skid Steer & Landscaping \$125 Cross Country
 - Moments that Matter \$500 Falloween
 - The Apple Patch \$150 Girls Basketball
 - VNR, Inc. \$250 Falloween
- Fundraisers
 - Jog-a-Thon 8/31/24 Cross Country
 - Hit-a-Thon 9/7 through 10/12 Baseball
 - Trivia Night & Silent Auction 3/1/25 Baseball
 - Hat Day 8/30/24 Academic Super Bowl

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Donations and Fundraisers and Mr. Ryan Knowlton 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 – 5

1. Approve Minutes – September 3, 2024 – Regular & Executive Session
2. Approve Vouchers 103597 through 103637
2. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- a. Hannah Ciula Girls Basketball Assistant Coach, Urey Middle School

Appointments

- a. Lexia Pearish Regular Route Bus Driver, John Glenn School Corporation
- b. Chunhui Liu Temporary Teacher, John Glenn High School
- c. Beth Layer Temporary Teacher, John Glenn High School

Transfers

- a. Amy Arick Transfer from Secretary at Urey Middle School to Case Conference Coordinator, John Glenn School Corporation
- b. Roger Dittmar Transfer from Boys Basketball Head Coach to Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, Urey Middle School

4. Approve Transfer Students

To date, we have 69 new transfer students for the 2024-25 school year.

5. Approve FMLA Request for Employee #1852

Mr. Winchell commented that Mr. Liu will be covering Mrs. Huo’s maternity leave for the Chinese Classes the next several weeks and Mrs. Layer will be covering for Mrs. Patrick in the Math Department.

Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 – 5 and Mr. Bob Borlik seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve School Improvement Plans

Mr. Winchell explained that the State requires us to produce, construct, approve and post three year School Improvement Plans. Technically, they only need to be updated every three years but it is our practice at John Glenn to update them annually. These plans are building level specific. The principals work with the School Improvement Team which has both union and non-union teachers participating. School Improvement Plans are carefully constructed after reviewing the ILEARN and IREAD-3 data along with any other data that might be important to the educational process. The School Improvement plans before you tonight should be considered joint recommendations from the John Glenn Education Association and the administration team. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve School Improvement Plans and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

2. Approve Advertisement of 2025 Budget

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that this is the first official step of the 2025 Budget process. Tonight, you are not approving the 2025 Budget, but you are giving authority to advertise the Budget on Indiana Gateway, along with the Capital Projects Plan and Bus Replacement Plan. We are still waiting on a certified Assessed Value from St. Joseph County that reflects the AV including Greene Township. We have a good projected assessed value but it is still not official. In the notes, you will notice that we have a chunk that is considered “Legacy John Glenn” which is John Glenn without Greene Township and “Total John Glenn” includes Greene Township. We are not allowed to request any additional revenue that we do not advertise on our official Form 3. It is a common practice for schools and municipalities to use a reduced projected AV number which will make our advertised tax rate look inflated to ensure the advertised numbers are large enough for some wiggle room before final approval in this process. When we get the actual AV and do the actual budget, the tax rate will come down significantly. Mr. Bendy explained that the 2025 Budget is a budget of change and is much different from the 2024 Budget. As we prepared the budget, we wanted to be certain we were protecting ourselves so we inflated our appropriations and deflated our revenue. We are estimating an 8-9% growth in the appropriation of the Education Fund from \$14.5 million to \$15.7 million. A lot of this is due to changes we have had in the corporation in the last year which includes an appropriation for Support Services – Business, which previously did not have any appropriation. This is due to the change in the textbook rental charges. Since we are unable to charge families for textbook rentals, the State has set aside an appropriation to pay for them. Unfortunately, the amount the State has provided, does not equal the cost of these supplies. Our revenue into this account is approximately \$300,000 and our appropriation is closer to \$768,000. The admin team will be looking at these expenses very closely and will have many discussions regarding this. With JESSE dissolving, we are now the LEA for the new consortium. This requires many administrative costs that we did not have last year. ESSR-3 grant funds have also been spent in full so we needed to appropriate for these costs, generally related to class size reduction and student programming expansion.

The Debt Service Fund will have a slight increase in appropriation of approximately 2.7%. As Mr. Winchell noted earlier, we have two different types of debt service, the Legacy John Glenn Debt Service and the Total John Glenn which includes Greene Township. We have officially asked the State Board of Accounts to provide us with a new account number to appropriately track these funds. We have a bond rolling off at the end of 2024, but we will still have an \$800,000 payment due in January 2025. We have been able to cash flow half of it, but we will need to levy for the other half.

The Operations Fund will have an increase of approximately 6.9%. We will be filing an excessive levy appeal since we now know what our expenses are after the annexation of Greene Township. We had to budget for this appeal money now, so that we will be allowed to spend it when we receive it. \$1 million of the operational increase is appeal money, this is pending what the DLGF approves on our appeal request.

The Rainy Day Fund has an increased appropriation from \$300,000 to \$500,000. It is never our intent to spend the Rainy Day Fund but we know it is there if we need it.

The total appropriation is \$26,419,631 which will be advertised at \$1.2625. We are hoping we will come in closer to \$.99.

Mr. Winchell added that the Budget process does two things. It gives us permission to spend the funds, and it gives us permission to collect funds. It doesn't necessarily mean we have the funds to spend. Approximately 75-80% of our budget comes from ADM (average daily membership). The other 20-25% then comes from the local tax rate.

In summary we are asking for \$26 million appropriation. Of that \$26 million, we are asking for \$6 million in operations taxes and about \$4 million in debt service. Tonight, we are asking for permission to

advertise this budget. Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve Advertisement for 2025 Budget and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

3. Public Hearing Prior to Formal Bargaining

Mr. Winchell noted that per Indiana Code, the school board is required to hold a public hearing prior to the start of formal Collective Bargaining in order for the community members or non-union teachers to give their comments regarding the bargaining process. At John Glenn, we have a strong history of the administration team working with the union team on the Collective Bargaining agreement. The public hearing was opened at 7:45 P.M. and closed at 7:46 P.M. with no public comment being made.

4. Approve Resolution to Declare Items Surplus

Mr. Winchell noted that this has become a regular practice for us as we continue to identify items that are no longer advantageous to the educational setting. Mr. Groves has provided a complete list of items that will be auctioned. Mr. Groves reminded the board that a large portion of these items are student desks and chairs that we replaced over the summer. We are once again working with Kaser Auction Service to sell these items through online auction. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Resolution to Declare Items Surplus and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

5. Approve SRO Compensation

Mr. Winchell explained that approximately 10-15 years ago, we looked into employing a full-time School Resource Officer. We quickly learned that it was somewhat cost prohibitive and it was hard to find a full-time officer willing to work in a school setting because of the policing shortage. In brainstorming with the local police departments, we put together what is known as our part-time SRO program where we hire their police officers to work as our resource officer on their day off. We have an SRO on duty every day that rotates through the three buildings in Walkerton, and then we have a presence at North Liberty from a North Liberty Officer. The North Liberty Police Chief also frequently visits NLES throughout his normal work day. We try to keep their compensation close to what they would receive if they are working overtime for the Town. It has been since 2018 that we updated the SRO compensation. It is our recommendation that we increase their compensation from \$30/hour to \$35/hour beginning October 1st. Mr. Winchell and Mr. Groves also noted that the SRO officers also work on grants such as following school buses looking for stop arm violations and unsafe drivers around school buses. Sometimes with grants, there are hidden costs. If you see a Town Board Member, thank them for their support of the SRO Program and the stop arm blitzes that they do. The grants may cover their salary, but the town shoulders some of the unforeseen expenses such as benefits and retirement. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve SRO Compensation and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

6. Approve Purchase over \$75,000 – School Buses from Midwest Transit

Mr. Winchell noted that annexing Greene Township and expanding our CTE programing and transportation has required us to create a wish list of buses that we would like to purchase with our next budget cycle pending our max levy appeal. By approving this tonight, we will be able to get on the bus vendors list and be on 2024 pricing instead of waiting and get 2025 pricing. The approximately leave time is 6-8 months. There is no penalty to us if we need to reduce this purchase order. This purchase request is reflected in the Bus Replacement plan that will come before you for official approval. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve the purchase of two 78-Passenger Buses, One 66-Passenger Bus with Lift and 2 Type A 14-Passenger Activity Buses from Midwest Transit Equipment and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Director of Learning Report

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- The staff completed 17 required trainings that are required annually. One I want to highlight is a newer training called Stop the Bleed. Stop the Bleed is a course for treatment of severe or traumatic internal/external bleeding. Officer Kulp with the Walkerton Police Department is trained in Stop the Bleed and trained our staff members. The IDOE requires five individuals at each building to be trained. In addition to the training, we were also able to provide a Stop the Bleed Kit to each of the buildings. We are extremely blessed to have these kits as many school corporations do not have them due to the cost.
- This past week we did our annual alignment dates for 6-7-8 teachers. We gather our 6th through 8th grade ELA/Math teachers together to really dig into our student data. It is very beneficial to be able to look at each individual student’s scores and then grade level scores and determine how we are going to help each student grow. These meetings are all about owning each individual students education and owning every single kid in the corporation. I am super proud of the principals for allowing us the time to do this, and the teachers for making the time to do it. We look forward to doing this with teachers in grades 3-4-5.

2. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- In place of Mr. Winchell’s report, Mr. Winchell, Dr. Fuller and Mr. Goewert shared their presentation along with our partners at Brain Ware. Brain Ware software is a cognitive enhancement software (thinking improvement software) that we have been incorporating to help our students improve learning. The full presentation will be made at the ISBA/IAPSS Annual Fall Conference next week.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Falloween – September 20th through 22nd

Falloween Monday – No School

Homecoming Bonfire – September 25th – 7pm

Homecoming – September 27th

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 1, 2024 7:00 P.M. John Glenn Administration Building

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
