

During that same timeframe, the Board took many official action steps, many of which involved working with the Indiana Department of Education and the local county election boards to change our school board boundaries to reflect the annexation of Greene Township. Uniquely, how that all came together required our board to fill Bob's board seat with a member from Greene Township. By statute, we must replace his seat on how our boundaries are currently. Under the board's direction, the Central Office advertised the board vacancy according to state statute. The board then interviewed the two candidates in a public meeting on February 4th. The statute requires a board vacancy to be filled within 30 days. Our deadline is February 13th. It is my recommendation that the Board consider appointing one of the two people who were interviewed. Mrs. Carson noted that the Board interviewed two highly qualified candidates, Mr. Cory Hamel and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski. After board deliberation, Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to Appoint Kathy Jaworski as School Board Member to fill the Vacancy, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to zero.

Each board member took a moment to thank both candidates for their interest in our open position, stating how nice it was to have such qualified individuals apply.

Mrs. Kathy Jaworski took her Oath of Office and was seated with the Board for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Winchell also noted that according to our new boundaries, each township now has one representative, and with the next election cycle, we will have two district positions. The north district seat must be held by a resident of Greene or Liberty Townships, and the south district seat must be a resident of Lincoln, Polk, or Johnson Township.

2. Approve Distribution of Early Literacy Grant in the amount of \$12,664.32

Mr. Winchell explained that this grant is in the second year of its establishment by the IDOE. We are all familiar with the Teacher Appreciation Grant, which has been around for about 7 years. We pass a policy to approve the distribution of those TAG funds each September. The Early Literacy Grant began last year. It is specifically related to our teammates who work with students on literacy. We have worked with the union to establish the teachers and support staff who work with student literacy. This is a joint recommendation from the admin and discussion/union teams. The funds this year are much smaller than what we received last year. That is due to the DOE establishing a dollar amount to be distributed. Last year, there were fewer schools that qualified and met the criteria, so we were able to get a larger amount. Mr. Winchell recommended that the Board approve this distribution of a little under \$200 per literacy teammate, and then Mr. Bendy and his Business Office team will issue these funds to the approximately 60 staff members. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Distribution of Early Literacy Grant in the amount of \$12,664.32, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

REPORTS

1. Director of Learning Report – Dr. Patrick Fuller

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- Textbook adoption is still underway. We have a few vendors scheduled to come present to our committee.
- Checkpoint #3 began yesterday. We are working through the data that we received from checkpoint #2. It is very positive, and students have grown significantly so far. We are excited to continue.
- The updated 504 information is almost complete. We plan to bring the updated forms for approval in March.

2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- The Girls' Basketball Team finished their season at the Sectional Championship game after having a .500 season last year. What an improvement. It was a great game and a great season they should be very proud of.
- We had two wrestlers qualify for the Semi-State. Brody King and Walter Drews made it out of the Crown Point Regional, which is quite an accomplishment. At the Laporte Sectional the week before, Walter upset the New Prairie wrestler who had beaten him a few weeks prior to take second place. We wish them both luck as they head to East Chicago to compete this weekend.
- Shout out to Chris Matthys, our AP Government Teacher. They are planning on going to the Indiana State House. Their trip was postponed due to the ice last week, and another storm is scheduled to hit tomorrow. We will continue to find a date that is safe for Mr. Matthys and the AP Government class to travel to Indianapolis.
- The John Glenn Theatre Company will be performing Little Shop of Horrors the weekend of March 14th through 16th. The students have been working hard at rehearsals, and we encourage you to attend.
- Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), the Budget Bill, is working its way through committees. There were some very scary scenarios being presented with potential tax cuts. JGSC was potentially going to lose \$560,000 next year to the operations fund, then \$700,000 the following year. We worked hard to be awarded the Max Levy Appeal, which was in serious danger of being a moot point. Today, revisions to SB 1 were released. So far, they have reduced the projected cuts, but they added that there is capped growth to tax levies in 2026, 1% growth in 2027, and 2% growth in 2028, and it looks like they may remove the Max Levy Appeal Process. We are very fortunate with the timing that ours was already approved. Many other changes were presented that we will continue to closely monitor, as well as many other bills that are still working through committees. We are grateful to the Indiana Senate for taking a more conservative approach to budget cuts than what was previously proposed. Drastic changes to the budgets are difficult to manage, but we will continue to be fiscally responsible with our planning and monitor Governor Braun's recommendations and the Indiana General Assembly's activities.
- The John Glenn Education Foundation Gala will be this coming Friday, February 14th, at Four Winds Casino beginning at 6 pm.

3. Conference Requests

- a. Bret Badjek
- b. Geoff Jankowski
- c. Ron Brown
- d. Dave Lichtenbarger
- e. Katie Simmons

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. McGaughey asked if there are set parameters that we use when we are looking to cancel/delay school due to temperatures. Mr. Winchell explained that we look at how long frostbite takes to set in. -10 to -15 degree wind chills/temperatures, it generally takes 30 minutes for frostbite to set in. When temperatures are colder than that, frostbite can set in 15 minutes or less; this is when we really look at canceling or delaying. Another thing we look closely at when considering weather delays is whether the conditions are going to improve within the two-hour time frame. As the winter progresses, the community and kids get better at handling the colder temperatures and are more prepared. Lastly, we consider how our families feel about delays and cancellations. Our parents want their children to be at school. Other districts may be quick to delay the night before, but we will often wait until the morning of school because we want our students to be here, and we want to assess the conditions prior to buses and families beginning their commute.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 4, 2025 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
