

December 10, 2024

The Board of Education, Community Unit School District No. 1, 149 South Elm Street, Winchester, Illinois counties of Scott, Morgan and Greene, met in regular session on Tuesday December 10, 2024 at 4:30 PM in the Winchester High School Home Ec room.

President Steve Moore called the meeting to order with the following members answering roll call: Thad Walker, Bill Jacquot, Shanna Eddinger, Trista Freeman, Aaron Littig and Steve Moore. Eric Peterson entered at 4:53 PM. Also attending were Superintendent Kevin Blankenship, WGS Principal Jessica Crawford, WGS Assistant Principal Nic ZuHone, WHS Principal Denny Vortman, and Administrative Assistant Becky Lashmett.

TAX LEVY

A public hearing was conducted regarding the proposed tax levy, with no public questions or comments. Walker motioned to approve the levy as presented. Littig seconded the motion and roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

MINUTES / FINANCIALS

Littig motioned, with a second from Jacquot, to approve the minutes of the November 10th regular meeting. Roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

Freeman motioned, with a second from Eddinger, to approve the financial reports and bills to be paid. Roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

The building principals provided an update of student recognitions, activities and accomplishments, as well as upcoming events. Superintendent Blankenship reported on an upcoming annexation hearing.

POLICY UPDATES

Eddinger motioned to approve the PRESS policy updates #117 as presented in November. Freeman seconded the motion and roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

WHS RENOVATIONS

Eddinger motioned to adopt a resolution to place a bond question on the April 1, 2025 ballot. Freeman seconded the motion and roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being seven yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

Littig motioned to approve proposed Veregy projects 1B and 2 for renovation to the WHS HVAC system and asbestos removal / remodeling of the Home Ec and Commons area. Roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being seven yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

Freeman motioned, with a second from Littig, to abate \$60,000 in property taxes by transferring money to the bond payment from the sales tax fund. Roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Jacquot, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being seven yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

PUBLIC ACT 103

Superintendent Blankenship updated the Board on the new Public Act which requires districts to make public their level of operational fund balances versus expenses.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Moore asked the status of Freedom of Information requests, and Superintendent Blankenship reported there were none. President Moore then asked for questions or comments from the audience, and Donnie Campbell questioned the superintendent replacement process based upon Superintendent Blankenship’s upcoming retirement, and Jessica Brown asked if there were any updates on a band teacher.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Freeman motioned at 5:25 PM to enter into closed session, at which time Jacquot exited the meeting. Eddinger seconded the motion and roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

Peterson motioned, with a second from Littig, to return to open session at 6:58 PM. Roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed. President Moore announced the purpose of the executive session was for personnel matters and student discipline.

PERSONNEL ACTION

Walker motioned to remove teacher Stacy Valentine for violation of contractual terms. Eddinger seconded the motion and roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

Littig motioned to employ Mandy Newton as Certified Aide, with a second from Peterson. Roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

Littig motioned to accept the retirement notice of Dr. Kevin Blankenship for December, 2025. Freeman seconded the motion and roll call vote resulted: Walker, yea; Eddinger, yea; Freeman, yea; Peterson, yea; Littig, yea; and Moore, yea; there being six yeas and no nays, the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Steve Moore, President

Trista Freeman, Vice-President

Shanna Eddinger, Secretary

Becky Lashmett, Administrative Assistant