

**WEST PRAIRIE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #103  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEST PRAIRIE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL**

**July 27, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The West Prairie School District #103 Board of Education met on July 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at West Prairie Jr./Sr. High School for a regular meeting. Board members present were: Scott Vogler, Steve Kitch, Jennifer Cerven, Honey Zimmerman, Jake Kreps, and Mitchell Reed. Members absent: David Taulbee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Board and audience stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Superintendent Gradert highlighted the letter from former Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Heerboth congratulating the district on the renovation. Principal Heuer introduced new School Counselor Michelle Aurand.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from the public.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Kitch moved and Cerven seconded to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2023 meeting, and the bills. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps, and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

One FOIA request from Prairie State Wire regarding substitute teacher information was presented.

Principal Heuer announced that Cyclone Camp will be on August 10<sup>th</sup> and teachers are starting to set up their classrooms.

Principal Spiker announced that the North Elementary has several hires and the building has lots of young energy.

Superintendent Gradert announced around 750 people attended the grand opening of the new Jr./Sr. High School. 400 people were served food. Online registration is up and running and open registration will be August 3, 2023 from 12 p.m to 6 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School. The elementary teachers are receiving training for the new reading curriculum. He reported that the Joint Committee will meet regarding the evaluation cycle and the Threat Assessment team will meet August 8, 2023. He also reported that the agreement with Trajectory is still on hold.

**PLACE POLICIES ON SECOND READING AND ADOPT:**

Zimmerman moved and Reed seconded to place policies 2:80, 2:170, 4:45, 4:100, 5:230, 6:190, 6:240, 7:275, 7:305, 7:330, 8:25, 8:95 on second reading and adopt as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

**FACILITIES UPDATE:**

The Facilities committee discussed an overflow parking lot and parking for buses. Superintendent Gradert supplied the board with the AMP proposal for pulling wires for the security cameras. Three vendors came to the pre-bid meeting for the South Elementary bathroom renovation project. August 3, 2023 will be the bid opening. He also reported that signage will be up before the first day of school. Greenhouse proposals will be presented at the September meeting and the additional furniture will be arriving in September as well.

**DISCUSSION OF IASB EVENTS:**

The board discussed the IASB Fall Division meeting in Galesburg and West Prairie will host the Spring Division meeting either February 29, 2024 or March 5, 2024.

**SPORTS COOPERATIVE WITH SOUTHEASTERN #337:**

The board discussed the sports cooperative with Southeastern #337. Discussion only.

**MTC AGREEMENT:**

The board discussed an agreement with MTC Communications for IT services. Discussion only.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Kitch moved and Zimmerman seconded to enter into executive session at 8:42 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1).

Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

**Kreps moved and Zimmerman seconded to return to open session at 9:47 p.m. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**EMPLOYMENT MATTERS:**

**Kreps moved and Zimmerman seconded to accept the letter of resignation from Lauren Wyatt as paraprofessional as presented. President Vogler called for a voice vote. Those members voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps, and Reed. Nays: none. The motion carried.**

**Kitch moved and Zimmerman seconded to accept the verbal resignation from Myron VanBebber as custodial/grounds as presented. President Vogler called for a voice vote. Those members voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps, and Reed. Nays: none. The motion carried.**

**Kreps moved and Kitch seconded to accept the letter of resignation from Lindsay Cole as paraprofessional as presented. President Vogler called for a voice vote. Those members voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps, and Reed. Nays: none. The motion carried.**

**Kreps moved and Cerven seconded to accept the letter of resignation from Carey Sash as paraprofessional as presented. President Vogler called for a voice vote. Those members voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps, and Reed. Nays: none. The motion carried.**

**Zimmerman moved and Kitch seconded to hire Cristine Purdy as a teacher for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Zimmerman moved and Reed seconded to hire Laura Wilhite as a teacher for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kitch moved and Zimmerman seconded to hire Sarah Kerfoot as a teacher for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Cerven moved and Kreps seconded to hire Alisha Eidson as a social worker for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kreps moved and Reed seconded to hire David Eden as a long-term substitute for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kitch moved and Kreps seconded to hire Heidi Crane as a teacher for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks as pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Zimmerman moved and Reed seconded to hire Brittany Stambaugh as a paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kreps moved and Zimmerman seconded to hire Ashley Sayers as junior high school softball head coach for the 2023-2024 season as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kitch moved and Reed seconded to hire Ian Conkling as the high school boys head basketball coach for the 2023-2024 season as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Zimmerman moved and Kitch seconded to hire Randi Moore as a paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kreps moved and Reed seconded to hire Hannah Keck as a paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Cerven moved and Kitch seconded to hire Michelle Harman as a paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year pending completion of all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Kitch moved and Zimmerman seconded to hire Abigail Gregg as junior high school assistant softball coach for the 2023-2024 season as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Zimmerman moved and Kreps seconded to move Amanda Smith to a full-time position as bus driver as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

Kreps moved and Kitch seconded to hire Grant Rogers as junior high assistant baseball coach for the 2023-2024 season as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Kitch moved and Kreps seconded to approve Matt Whitman as junior high volunteer baseball coach for the 2023-2024 season as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Cerven moved and Reed seconded to approve Teri Paul as high school volunteer volleyball coach for the 2023-2024 season as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Kitch moved and Zimmerman seconded to hire Mark Benson as long-term substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year pending all background checks and pre-employment paperwork as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Kitch moved and Zimmerman seconded to appoint Michelle Aurand as National Honor Society sponsor as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps and Reed. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Kitch moved and Reed seconded to approve Greg Phelps as junior high softball volunteer coach as presented. Those members on roll call voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, and Reed. Nays: Kreps. The motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

Kreps moved and Reed seconded to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. President Vogler called for a voice vote. Those members voting “aye”: Vogler, Kitch, Cerven, Zimmerman, Kreps, and Reed. Nays: none. The motion carried.

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be August 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at West Prairie South Elementary in Colchester.

**APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WEST PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT #103  
McDonough, Hancock, Henderson Counties, Illinois on**

August 24, 2023

President

Secretary

  
