

**Regular Board of Education Meeting -
Briefs**

Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:00 PM Central

Winfield Central
0S150 Park St
Winfield, IL 60190

I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Done in proceeding Public Hearing

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Approved Amended Agenda - Added Items for Future Agendas

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: ([Public Comment Log](#))

Jason Kucera - Good evening,

I want to start by thanking the district, the staff and the community for their patience and understanding during this time. For those who don't know, I made the difficult decision to take a medical leave of absence at the start of this week. While I understand the gravity of such a decision and its impact on the school, my doctor and family agreed that it was the right decision. I especially want to express my gratitude to the wonderful teachers and staff who reached out to me and sent well wishes...that has meant more than you can know. Unfortunately, those messages needed to be texted to me as my Winfield email account was deactivated soon after taking my FMLA medical leave. To my knowledge, this is not standard practice. As the instructional leader, I worry that a mother who takes maternity leave or a teacher who becomes seriously ill would have their communication cut from their peers as I did. I had no intention of putting a note into public comment, ever. But, when my email was reactivated, Dr. Rich did so with the caveat that if I had anything to say to staff, it had to go through him first. Again, I am not sure if that is standard practice or not for someone on FMLA, but this is why I am taking this opportunity to once again thank everyone for their support. I miss you and I can't wait to see you again real soon!

Jason Kucera

Principal

David - The other day I had ESPN on in the background and I overheard them mention it was the 4-year anniversary of when one of the NCAA men's basketball games was cancelled at halftime because of the increasing concern of COVID-19. This was perhaps the first sign that things would be changing quickly and dramatically in the following days.

This got me reflecting, my daughter was in the final months of 8th grade here at Winfield 34 when all this began.

She and her classmates never saw the inside of Winfield school again.

In those weeks they missed field trips, ditch day, 8th grade graduation ceremony and the subsequent parties with family and friends. As the weeks went on, all sports were canceled over the summer, their first job never began because of closures. Then they were not able to meet their new classmates in the fall, no first homecoming football game, no homecoming dance. All the rites of passage just evaporated in front of them.

Believe it or not, this group will be graduating High School in the next couple months. We as their parents can still see the remnants of what they went through years ago.

I wish the current 8th grade graduates the best of luck in their time in High School and onward.

I'd also like to wish the best to Mr. Kucera and Mrs. Reinke and hope we see them both in the near future

Dan Janowick and Amanda Kammes - Dear Board of Education,

For months, you have silenced one of your board members over and over again and I beg you to stop colluding against him. Until recently, he was the school board president and now you are participating in a coordinated effort to silence him. This school board member was elected by the people and you refuse to let him bring up a topic and have it discussed. What are you hiding? What are you afraid he'll say? Why won't you be transparent with the public? As you look at tonight's agenda and see yet again more resignations from a school with tiny class sizes that used to be a destination for teachers- you should ALL be asking the tough questions. Please do not keep hiding things from the public and second the motion. Please second the motion and stop this lack of transparency. Second the motion.

Dan Janowick and Amanda Kammes

VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

VI.A. Student Recognition: AJ Hlava (7th) and Riley Garafolo (7th)

VI.B. [4th Grade Social Studies Curriculum Update](#) - Teachers David Brach and Kaitlin Freundt presented. The fourth grade civilization unit gives the students creative ways to learn about different civilizations through field trips, debates, creating floats, brochures and jeopardy groups. The Board would like to help to foster more of these kinds of curriculums by providing more resources and first hand accounts to the teachers.

VI.C. [Addressing and Monitoring Behavior](#) - Staff is working on creating behavioral logs and coding them. This will help with placement of students, staffing and creating behavioral intervention plans. Board would like to see regularly with the overall data presentations. A behavioral data presentation at the June board meeting.

VI.D. Consolidated District Plan for State and Federal Grants - Reviewed the annual application for State and Federal grants including Title I, II, IV, IDEA flowthrough and IDEA preschool. Planning for professional learning resources continues to focus on math, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and social-emotional/behavior resources. Grants will also include funding to support low achieving and special education students.

VI.E. Pilot Partnership for Paraprofessionals Pursuing Special Education Degrees with Elmhurst University - Discussed a potential partnership with Elmhurst University to employ students studying in their program pursuing teaching degrees in Special Education to work in the district 2 days a week as paraprofessionals. Students could help with data collection, classroom support, and interventions.

VI.F. TIF 2 - Reviewed a decision in the case from the morning of March 21, 2024. The ruling did not grant the district's desire for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) of Village spending from TIF 2. Rather Judge Chapman indicated, on the record, that the districts would have a cause of action or remedy against the Village for any funds spent out of the TIF 2 fund should the TIF 2 Ordinance be held invalid in this matter. Thus, the Village will be responsible for these funds and repayment if the school districts win the case. The Judge also indicated that there was fair question as to the likelihood of success on the merits of the claims challenging the legality of TIF 2. Indicating that there are valid grounds to be questioning the legality of TIF 2. The board also reviewed what abatement agreements are, including 2 abatement agreements between CHSD 94 and City of West Chicago regarding the airport area and warehouse area.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VII.A. Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 22, 2024 - Approved

VII.B. Closed Session Meeting Minutes February 22, 2024 - Approved

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

VIII.A. Approval of Finance Reports

VIII.A.1. Bill List - Payable List and List of Other Payments - Approved

VIII.A.2. Treasurer/Fund Balance/Bank Reconciliation Report - Approved

IX. COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD

IX.A. Superintendent's Report

1. **Legislative Update** - Senate Bill 1 is the legislative vehicle that is being used for the creation of a brand new state agency, entitled the Department of Early Childhood. This initiative of the Governor's Office is an extension of the Smart Start Illinois Plan, and is supported by the Illinois State Board of Education and a number of advocacy groups, such as Start Early, Advance Illinois, Illinois Action for Children, and the Latino Policy Forum, among others. The legislation does specify that the Preschool for All (PFA), Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE), and the Prevention Initiative (PI) programs will be transferred to the new agency from ISBE by July 1, 2026. This would impact our preschool programming and early intervention (birth to 3 services). I am unsure if this would be an improvement or not. These services now fall into several departments in the State. House Bill 4662 seeks to extend the allowance for TRS retirees to return to full time service in subject shortage areas without impacting their retirement annuities. The program has been in statute since 2003, and has been extended a number of times since enactment. The current bill would extend the program through 2029.

2. **Facilities Update** - Bids are out on the Winfield Primary Gym project. We have our bid opening tomorrow at 2pm. We will keep the Board of the results. Trane was investigating the room where we do speech interventions overheating and an issue we had a couple weeks ago with one system not keeping up. Trane believes these two issues are connected. The book room is on the same system that was having issues a couple weeks ago. What the VRF tech found was the return air sensor on the univents is reading at least 7-9 degrees below the actual space temperature. This is causing the outdoor units to ramp up the compressors thinking the system needs more capacity to meet setpoint and also causing the book room to overheat. The next steps to resolve this is to have a tech onsite there to check the location of the return temp sensor and relocate it higher up in the unit so it gets a more accurate reading. Trane is also going to change the programming so the OA damper stays in last position instead of opening 100% when the space is at setpoint. Trane believes by making these changes the compressors won't ramp up and will reduce the amount of refrigerant flowing to the book room unit and reduce the amount of times the system goes into defrost mode. Trane will be onsite the week of Spring Break. This will probably take us 2-3 days to complete.

3. **BLT Update:** On Monday afternoon the Building Leadership Team met. We discussed internal substitute teaching coverage. The feeling was overall this didn't work as staff members need their preparation time. It is best in emergency situations only. Lunch duty is

also using a lot of staff time and energy. The administrative team will focus on recruitment of substitute teachers. We also discussed potential late start days in certain inclement weather situations. The BLT focused on developing survey questions for staff. BLT members may be asking staff teams for further questions. We also began to define hurdles to be overcome in order to make this operational if the Board decides this is an option to be considered. The BLT will work more on this in April, developing a brief Board Update with a goal of a more complete set of options for May's Board meeting. Finally, we discussed the district's Consolidated District Plan that guides grants such as IDEA and Title I, II, and IV programs. We reviewed how the plan identifies needs such as math professional development, behavior support, and learning about equity, as well as student targets. The BLT provided insights for the grant and opened the door for reflective conversation about timing of interventions, suicide awareness training and gathering information about student substance abuse through the Illinois Youth Survey.

4. Preschool For All Advisory Committee Update - We held our first meeting of the Preschool for All Parent Advisory Committee on Wednesday, March 13th. The committee is 6 parents, members of the preschool instructional team including Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dave', Becca Garretson, and myself. We discussed ways to promote family learning both parent education and children and parents learning together, helping families become aware of our program and both the at-risk and special education services that are available through the program, and connecting preschool parents with the greater Winfield School District 34 community. The committee began to identify targets for future family learning nights include social-emotional supports at school and at home and literacy. The Preschool team met today. They have identified that we will do a Preschool Family night focused on literacy in May and one on social-emotional development in the Fall. We will also be working over the next few months to help the group setup a Facebook Group for preschool sharing and distribution of educational parenting materials. Finally, our next Preschool for All Parent Advisory Committee meeting will be on Monday, May 20th.

5. WEF Update - Reviewed profits from the following Tiger fundraisers brought in: Tiger action \$1525.60, Trivia Night \$2664.32 and Lou Malnati's \$1190.00. Discussed Drama production and the WEF purchase of Drama lights. Shared approval of Teacher Grants including Bird Buddy Bird feeder for kindergarten, coding with Ozobots for second grade, and lenses for the digital photography class. WEF is also funding the annual 8th grade trip to Romeo and Juliet. Finally, don't forget to sign up for Tiger Run Sunday May 19th.

IX.B. Finance Report from Director of Business Services - Reviewed the community for free option. State reimbursement is too low for the percent of students we have that qualify for free or reduced lunch. This option would cost the district \$4,000 per month. We will continue to learn more about it, but do not plan to implement this for the 2024-25 school year. We are pursuing a 1 year renewal of our food service contract with Taher.

X. OLD BUSINESS

X.A. Approve Evans, Marshall, and Pease, P.C. to Perform the Independent Audits - Approved

X.B. Approve Revised 2024-25 School Calendar - Approved

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XI.A. Approve Sunrise Transportation Contract Extension - Approved

XI.B. Personnel

XI.B.1. Approve Resignation of Sunny Chang-Jonas and Trista Wentworth - Approved

XI.B.2. Dismissal of 1st Year Probationary Teacher(s) - None - not voted on

XI.B.3. Approve Employment of Long Term Substitute Interim Principals Anthony Coglianesse and Carin Novak - Approved

XI.C. Board Procedures and Exhibit Updates - None

XI.D. FOIA - David Freeman - Robbins Schwartz

Added Item. Items for Future Agendas - Metro Chicago Math Initiative Update, Field trips/Overnight Field Trips

XII. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – 9:20pm Reason 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer 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 [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). **Reason 12.** Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). **(ROLL CALL VOTE)**

XIII. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION - 12:12am

XV. ADJOURNMENT - 12:13am

The next meeting of the Board will be: Thursday, April 25, 2024