

**West Fork Community School District Board Minutes**  
**Official Proceedings – Regular Meeting – September 18, 2023 – unapproved**

The West Fork Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the Band Room in Rockwell. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Board President, Grant Petersen. Board members present: Holly Henricks, Erin Suntken, Amber Marzen, and Rob Heimbuch. Also present were Superintendent Mike Kruger, HS Principal Darren Huisenga, MS Principal Lance Thompson, Elementary Principal Ashley Flatebo, and West Fork Board Secretary Lacey Pueggel.

Visitors: Kristen Wedmore, Mary Schlichting, Dr. Steve Schulz

Henricks made a motion to approve the Agenda, Minutes from August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, September 2023 bills, August 2023 Financials; seconded by Heimbuch. Motion carried 5-0.

Principals Report:

1. New Staff is off to a great start and seem to be a great fit in the District
2. FAST testing is wrapping up and will start progress monitoring/interventions next week
3. Curriculum adoption is moving forward with Math and Reading
4. Elementary received a \$10,000 grant from Cerro Gordo County Foundation for the playground
5. Playground fundraiser coming up: Volleyball Supper serving pizza
6. Elementary will also be hosting a fundraiser starting in October selling Coffee and Chocolates
7. Portrait of a Graduate work is progressing
8. Homecoming was last week, went well
9. HS working on feedback on the new 8 period days
10. PLC work has kicked off
11. CPI training took place

Superintendent's Report

1. Working on plans to invite local legislators to visit our district before their session starts
2. Thank you to all the staff for a great start to the school year, everyone was very patient
3. Thank you to OPAA! for the food for the meeting, and to all of our Kitchen staff for their hard work implementing the new Food Service program, things are going well

Transportation

1. Discussion on 12 passenger van

Daren Huisenga left the meeting at 5:20pm

Dr. Steve Schulz joined the meeting at 5:37pm

Dr. Schulz of NIACC provided an overview of potential plans for a Building Site for a Regional Academy. This would be shared with Hampton-Dumont and Blemond-Klemme. Currently there is an EDA Federal Grant for \$3 million dollars that NIACC is working on to make this partnership possible. The plans would be to put the Regional Academy in Hampton, near the Airport. Examples of classes that would be offered are: Nursing, Construction, Advanced Manufacturing. There will be more information coming and a District commitment required.

Dr. Steve Schulz left the meeting at 6pm.

Old Business:

Update on building projects: HVAC system will be officially up and running with a few small tweaks to a couple of rooms. The FEMA room and safe entrance at Rockwell continue to progress on time.

New Business:

The board was presented with 246 petition signatures calling for an Election of General Obligation Bonds. After review of the signatures, Suntken moved to accept and verify the petition; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board of Directors of the West Fork Community School District, in the Counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, and Wright, State of Iowa, met in open session, in the Band Room, 210 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Rockwell, Iowa 50469, at 5:00 P.M., on the above date. There were present President Grant Petersen, in the chair, and the following named Board Members:

Rob Heimbuch, Amber Marzen, Erin Suntken, Holly Henricks

Absent: N/A

Vacant: N/A

The President of the Board called the meeting together and stated that a Petition had been filed purporting to be signed by eligible electors of the School District numbering at least 25% of those voting at the last election of school officials. The Petition requests that an election be called on the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,865,000, to provide funds to remodel, repair, and improve the HVAC and electrical systems at the Rockwell elementary building and the Sheffield middle school / high school building, including related remodeling and improvements; to replace roof sections at both facilities; to replace horizontal runs of the domestic water system piping at the Sheffield facility; and to add a secure entrance at the Sheffield facility.

The President submitted the Petition to the Board which examined the Petition. 808 qualified electors voted at the last election of school officials; the number of eligible electors who have signed the petition is 246.

Director Heimbuch introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Director Henricks seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was:

AYES: Suntken, Marzen, Heimbuch, Henricks, Petersen

NAYS: N/A

The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION ORDERING AN ELECTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF  
\$16,865,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS

WHEREAS, there has been filed with the President of this Board a Petition of eligible electors of this School District asking that an election be called to submit the question of contracting indebtedness and issuing bonds of the School District in an amount not to exceed \$16,865,000 to provide funds to remodel, repair, and improve the HVAC and electrical systems at the Rockwell elementary building and the Sheffield middle school / high school building, including related remodeling and improvements; to

replace roof sections at both facilities; to replace horizontal runs of the domestic water system piping at the Sheffield facility; and to add a secure entrance at the Sheffield facility; and

WHEREAS, this Board has examined the Petition and finds that it is signed by eligible electors of the School District numbering at least 25% of those voting at the last election of school officials and that the purposes set forth in the petition cannot be accomplished within the limit of one and one-quarter percent of the assessed value of the taxable property in the School District; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for the issuance of Bonds or any other proposal incorporating any portion of it has not or will not have been submitted to the qualified electors of the School District for a period of at least six months prior to the date of election being called in these Proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE WEST FORK COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTIES OF CERRO GORDO, FRANKLIN, HANCOCK, AND WRIGHT, STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1: That an election is called of the qualified electors of the West Fork Community School District in the Counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, and Wright, State of Iowa, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The following public measure is approved, and the Secretary is authorized and directed to submit and file the public measure for the Ballot with the Cerro Gordo County Commissioner of Elections no later than 12:00 noon on the day following the last day on which nomination petitions can be filed.

#### PUBLIC MEASURE 1

Shall the Board of Directors of the West Fork Community School District in the Counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, and Wright, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,865,000 to provide funds to remodel, repair, and improve the HVAC and electrical systems at the Rockwell elementary building and the Sheffield middle school / high school building, including related remodeling and improvements; to replace roof sections at both facilities; to replace horizontal runs of the domestic water system piping at the Sheffield facility; and to add a secure entrance at the Sheffield facility?

[END OF BALLOT LANGUAGE]

Section 2: That the notice of the election and ballot form used at the election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Rules.

Section 3: That the Election Board for the Voting Precinct or precincts be appointed by the County Commissioner of Elections for each County conducting an election, not less than 15 days before the election.

Section 4: The Commissioner of Elections for each County conducting an election is requested and directed to make publication of the Notice of Election at least once, not less than four days nor more than twenty days prior to the election, in a newspaper that meets the requirements of Section 49.53(2), Code of Iowa.

Section 5: The Commissioner of Elections for each county conducting an election is requested and directed to mail, to each registered voter in the District, a Notice of Election that includes the full

text of the public measures to be voted on, not less than ten days nor more than twenty days prior to the election. Cerro Gordo County, Iowa is the Controlling County for this election.

Section 6: Cerro Gordo County, Iowa is the Controlling County for this election.

Section 7: That the County Commissioner of Elections for each County conducting an election shall prepare all ballots and election registers and other supplies necessary for the proper and legal conduct of this election and the Secretary of the Board is directed to cooperate with these Commissioners of Elections in the preparation of the necessary proceedings.

Section 8: That the Secretary is directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution in the Office of the County Commissioner of Elections of the Controlling County to constitute the "written notice" to the County Commissioner of Elections of the election date, required to be given by the governing body under the provisions of Chapter 47, Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of September, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

The board discussed possible dates for Open Houses at both campuses prior to the General Obligation Vote. The dates were set as follows: Open House from 6pm-8pm on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Rockwell Campus and Open House from 6pm-8pm on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Sheffield Campus. There will be a short presentation at 6pm and 7pm at each campus. More information will be coming out soon.

Heimbuch moved to approve Allowable Growth/Supplemental Aid for the Special Education Deficit for the 2022-2023 school year; RESOLVED: *The West Fork CSD requests allowable growth to cover the costs of the Special Education Deficit from the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$434,849.21;* seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Following review of bids from Artic, Fellers, Index, Session and TriMark, Heimbuch moved to approve the purchase of a 3 door cooler for the Sheffield Campus from Artic for \$5,282.99; seconded by Henricks. Motion carried 5-0.

Suntken moved to approve Grant Petersen to serve as the Districts representative at the IASB Delegate Assembly; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

After discussion, Heimbuch moved to approve the 2023-2024 Return to Learn Plan as presented; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Henricks moved to approve a contract to Debra Armatis, to serve as a Para at the Sheffield Campus; seconded by Heimbuch. Motion carried 5-0.

Henricks moved to approve a contract to Kylie Fink, to serve as a Para at the Sheffield Campus; seconded by Heimbuch. Motion carried 5-0.

Marzen moved to approve the resignation of Assistant Softball Coach, Emily Greimann; seconded by Henricks. Motion carried 5-0.

Marzen moved to approve the resignation of Freshman Volleyball Coach, Michelle Thompson; seconded by Henricks. Motion carried 5-0.

Next Regular Board Meeting is October 16, 2023 in Sheffield in the Media Center.

Henricks moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

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Board President – Grant Petersen

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Board Secretary – Lacey Pueggel



