



Winfield School District 34
Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024 7:00 PM
Winfield School Central Cafeteria, 0S150 Park St, Winfield, IL 60190

I. **CALL TO ORDER 7:00pm**

II. **ROLL CALL**

Board of Education Members in attendance: Heather Armstrong, Manuel Figueroa, Dave Hempe, Lynn Kammes (arrived at 8:29 pm), Dan Krasinski, Matt Tibble, Alisa Wolfe

Also, Present: Matt Rich, Superintendent; Scott Meech, Principal; Dave Baum, Tech Support; Lisa Honaker, CSBO; Amanda Melsa, Board of Education Secretary

Staff: Sonja Nasiopulos, Amanda Burt, Jen Gendel

Visitor: Walling Family, Willix Family, Sue Hempe

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (will be done during Tax Levy Hearing)**

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Action(s): Dave Hempe made a recommendation to adjust agenda item VII A.2. to be removed as the Treasurer's report will be presented in the December 18th meeting. Also reworded recommended motion for item VII to not include but to include items C and D. Motion was approved as amended. A roll call vote was taken.. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Lynn Kammes: Absent

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None submitted

VI. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

A. **Student Recognition - Bliss Walling & Hannah Willix**

B. **Preschool Fees**

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent to increase the tuition for the 5 day a week tuition program in FY26 by the CPI of 3.4%. Voting on this matter will occur in January.

C. **[Strategic Plan Update](#)**

Strategic plan update was presented. Discussion surrounded updated goals in technology, student growth targets in mathematics, and creating avenues for family involvement.

Showcase night will be returning on April 23rd.

D. **TIF 2**

• **Legal Challenges Against TIF 2:**

o **Failure to Meet Statutory Requirements:**

- *The school districts argue that TIF 2 enacted by the Village of Winfield does not meet legal criteria, including the requirement to demonstrate blight and other mandated factors.*

o **Non-Contiguous Properties Issue:**

- *The village improperly combined several disconnected properties to create the TIF.*
- *A key issue involves a parking garage included in the TIF, which will remain on the tax rolls for only 20 years, shorter than the TIF's duration, leaving the school districts without long-term revenue benefits.*

o **Municipal vs. Economic Development Purpose:**

- *The districts argue that TIF 2 is intended primarily for municipal*

development, with most funds directed towards a municipal center, which will not expand the tax base for other taxing bodies.

- o **Failure to Meet the "But-For" Test:**
 - The districts assert that development is already occurring without TIF funds, primarily due to a \$65-70 million investment by Central DuPage Hospital, making the TIF unnecessary for further economic growth.

- **Legal Proceedings:**

- o Motions for summary judgment have been filed by the school districts and the village, with response briefs due imminently.
- o Reply briefs will follow within 14 days, and a ruling from the judge is expected around January.
- o The motions could expedite the process by eliminating the need for a trial or narrowing the issues.
- o If unresolved, a trial would begin in February, either as consecutive sessions or spread out over several months. This timeline may intersect with April board elections.

- **Settlement Offer:**

- o The school district's prior settlement offer funded all proposed village projects except the new village hall.
- o This offer reflected the preferences of taxpayers, as evidenced by the November 5th non-binding referendum, which showed opposition to redirecting school funds for a village hall.
- o The village has not provided a meaningful response to the settlement since September or October.

- **Community Considerations:**

- o The school districts emphasize that funds redirected from schools should align with public priorities and avoid financing projects like the village hall without taxpayer input.
- o Transparency and accountability remain critical as this process continues.

E. **IASA IASB IASBO Conference Review**

Conference Review-Great conference! A lot was learned at all the talks and seminars offered. Members attended sessions on FOIA, Collective Bargaining, TIF, and Special Education. We hope to continue to grow our participation in this learning opportunity in future years.

VII. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Action(s): I move to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Lynn Kammes: Absent

A. November 21, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024, Regular Board of Education Closed Session Minutes

VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA (Routine matters that do not require discussion)**

Action(s): I move to approve the Consent Agenda action items A and B (read every listed item) as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Lynn Kammes: Absent

A. **Approval of Finance Reports**

1. Bill List - Payable List and List of Other Payments

2. Treasurer/Fund Balance/Bank Reconciliation Report - We anticipate this will be added to the Board Retreat Agenda 12-18-24

B. **Other Approvals**

C. **Approve Destruction of Verbatim Table From: Confidential Attachments**

1. September 22, 2022 #1
2. September 22, 2022 #2
3. October 27, 2022
4. November 17, 2022
5. December 15, 2022

D. **Approve Closed Session Minutes Open To the Public From: Confidential Attachment**

1. May 23, 2024 #1
2. May 23, 2024 #2
3. June 20, 2024
4. August 1, 2024
5. August 22, 2024 #1
6. August 22, 2024 #2
7. September 16, 2024
8. October 24, 2024

IX. **COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD**

A. **Superintendent's Report**

1. **Legislative Update**

There seems to be significant interest to begin work on the Tier 2 pension system to ensure that it meets safe harbor requirements in relation to social security. This is complicated by interest at the Federal level by the elected party to take action on Social Security and Medicare. It's hard to ensure safe harbor when the line of safe harbor may change. Medicare changes could have an impact on the Teachers Health Insurance System (a bridge between retirement from district's and medicare) as well as changes in Social Security could redefine what safe harbor means. It is possible, given Illinois' recent legislative history, they act to ensure they meet the current level of safe harbor, thus if Social Security benefits become less or potentially phased out, increasing the differences between Illinois and other states as a benefit for being here.

2. **Facility Updates**

Well, it was brutally cold today (December 12th) and while we had a fan that needed to be looked at, however the rooms held temperature and we were able to operate. We have been working with Trane to analyze the challenges with the 2nd grade and Mrs. Makki's preschool room. The system was not holding refrigerant. They have tested the outdoor chillers and all the piping and have not found a leak. They are currently working with Mitsubishi who makes a fair number of the parts for all of these units, to explore the valves as a potential issue. They will begin looking into the kindergarten room system over winter break. The old system is maintaining temperature in those rooms and the staff would like to avoid moving as much as possible.

3. **WEF Update**

The Winfield Education Foundation has been very active this month. We had a terrific Project Hope coat and need items drive, 15 individuals donated blood at the blood drive including some first time donors, and they have been working on their gift card drive for families in need. January 11th is Trivia Night. It has a music theme and it is a great way to bring our community together. Dr. Rich encourages parents and guardians to sign up and join us for this fun event.

B. **Principal's Report**

*In December 2024, our focus continues to center on fostering connections, building an inclusive community, and supporting student growth. Inspired by the FISH for Schools philosophy, we want to emphasize four core practices for staff and students: **Be There, Play, Make Their Day, and Choose Your Attitude**. These principles encourage mindfulness, creativity, and positive engagement in teaching and learning*

environments, aligning with the school's philosophy, "Where Learning is Personal." December features a variety of events and activities aimed at community and morale-building. These include basketball and cheer playoffs, winter celebrations, and a Spirit Week culminating in a festive "Fancy Friday" where staff and students dress in black and gold. Spirit Week also brings themed days like Ugly Sweater Monday and Grinch Day to foster a sense of fun and unity.

In addition, we had a great experience on December 2nd with Kevin Honeycutt's talk, which focused on kindness, teamwork, and leaving a positive digital legacy. These align with his goal of creating meaningful connections and empowering teachers and students to thrive through innovative and supportive practices.

C. Finance Report from Director of Business Services

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2024 Tax Levy

Action(s): I move to approve the 2024 Tax Levy as Presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**
Lynn Kammes: Absent

B. Approve 2025-2026 School Calendar

Action(s): I move to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

C. Lynn Kammes: Absent

D. Second Reading/Adoption of Policies

Action(s): I move to approve the Second Reading/Adoption of Policies as Presented. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**
Lynn Kammes: Absent

1. Draft Update:

2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban

2:120 Board Member Development

4:30 Revenue and Investments

4:60 Purchases and Contracts

4:170 Safety

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

5:125 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct

5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline

6:60 Curriculum Content

6:135 Accelerated Placement Program

6:270 Guidance and Counseling Program

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

7:180 Preventing Bullying and Other Aggressive Behaviors

7:200 Out-of-School Suspension Procedures

8:10 Connection with the Community

XI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **IXL Renewal**

Action(s): I move to approve the contract with IXL Learning for 3 years at a cost of \$16,875. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Heather Armstrong and seconded by Matt Tibble, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**
Lynn Kammes: Absent

B. **Personnel**

1. **Approve Resignation of Jacilyn Doncoes - Paraprofessional**

Action(s): I move to approve the resignation of Jacilyn Doncoes as of the completion of work on December 6, 2024. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

2. **Approve Resignation of Anthony Giuliano - Paraprofessional**

Action(s): I move to approve the resignation of Anthony Giuliano as of the completion of work on December 18, 2024. A roll call vote was taken. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

C. **Board Procedures and Exhibit Updates**

For information only, no Board approval needed.

D. **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

1. Dan Janowick
2. Julie Dustin - Data Bid

XII. **Items for Future Agendas**

A. **School Lunch Program**

XIII. **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – 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).*

Action(s): I move to adjourn to closed session. A voice vote was taken at 8:33 pm. This motion, made by Lynn Kammes and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

XIV. **ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION**

Action(s): I move to adjourn from closed session to open session. A voice vote was taken at 9:42 pm. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Dave Hempe, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

XV. **ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

A. None

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Action(s): I move that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken at 9:43 pm. This motion, made by Matt Tibble and seconded by Heather Armstrong, **Passed**.

Voting Detail: Heather Armstrong: **Yea**, Manuel Figueroa: **Yea**, Dave Hempe: **Yea**, Lynn Kammes: **Yea**, Dan Krasinski: **Yea**, Matt Tibble: **Yea**, Alisa Wolfe: **Yea**

Regular Board of Education Meetings:

***Unless otherwise noted, all Board of Education Meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 7:00 PM. They are located in the Winfield Central School Cafeteria.**

Regular Thursday, December 12, 2024

Approved:

Dan Krasinski, President
Board of Education

Lynn Kammes, Secretary
Board of Education