

Minutes of the Argos Community Schools
Regular School Board Meeting
Held on April 17, 2023

The Board of School Trustees held a regular school board meeting on April 17, 2023. The following individuals were present for all or a part of the meeting.

- A. Pat Rensberger, Chris O'Dell, Jennifer Hurford, Karra Duff and Monty Peden, Members
- B. Ned L. Speicher, Superintendent
- C. Amy Miller, Administrative Assistant
- D. Greg Drennen, LWC Architect
- E. James Clevenger, Attorney at Law
- F. Beth Tinsman, Patron

Before the start of the regular meeting, Board President Pat Rensberger conducted a public hearing on the Additional Appropriation GO Bonds of \$550,000 to Purchase School Buses. The hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Jennifer Hurford moved to approve the opening of the hearing with Monty Peden seconding the motion. There was no public comment. James Clevenger asked for a motion to Adopt the Additional Appropriation Resolution. Chris O'Dell moved to do so. Monty Peden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0, James Clevenger then asked for a motion to Adopt the Final GO Bond Resolution. Monty Peden motioned to approve and Karra Duff seconded. This was also approved unanimously. The next order of business in this hearing was an Agreement for Paying Agent. Our agent is Regions Bank and the terms of the agreement are the same as all previous agreements. Karra Duff moved to approve the agreement with Chris O'Dell seconding and the motion was approved 5-0. Karra Duff then moved to adjourn the hearing. Chris O'Dell seconded and the hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

President Rensberger then opened the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

There was no communication from patrons.

Monty Peden moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 with Board Member Chris O'Dell abstaining due to not being present at last month's meeting.

Greg Drennen from LWC Incorporated was present to update the Board on Project 4. The bids for project 4 were opened last week and were substantially higher than what was budgeted for the project. There have also been changes in the purchasing agreement with the Town Council for the property required for the project to move forward. At this point, Mr. Drennen recommends that we look to the engineers for another approach on the project and speak with the contractors about what the excavators recommend. Drennen suggested that we table the project for now and he hopes to have more information for the May meeting. Jennifer Hurford moved to reject all bids and table Project 4 at this time until more information is received. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Monty Peden made a motion to approve all personnel changes per the attached listing. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chris O'Dell moved to approve the furniture purchase for Elementary addition/band room in the amount of \$45,997.82. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Karra Duff made a motion to approve the Resolution to Withdraw from JESSE Special Education Cooperative effective July 1, 2024. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Monty Peden moved to approve the Extra-Curricular Compensation Schedule for 7/1/23-6/30/25. Chris O'Dell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Karra Duff made a motion to approve the Classified Staff (Hourly Employees) Wage Increase for the 2023-2024 School Year. Jennifer Hurford seconded the motion and it also passed unanimously.

Mr. Speicher asked for the Board's approval of the R. Yoder Construction Pay App No. 8 for March 2023 in the amount of \$212,197.50. Chris O'Dell moved to approve with Karra Duff seconding and the motion was approved 5-0. Approval was also sought for Brown and Brown Construction Pay App No. 3 for March 31, 2023 in the amount of \$32,192.94. Chris O'Dell moved to approve with Jennifer Hurford seconding and the motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Speicher then presented the Board with the following NEOLA policies for a First Reading.

- 5420 Reporting Student Progress
- 5610 Suspension and Expulsion of Students
- 6250 Required ADM Counts for Purpose of State Funding and Verification of Residency for Membership
- 8120 Volunteers
- 8121 Personal Background Check-Contracted Services
- 8210 School Calendar
- 8220 School Day
- 8400 School Safety

Jenny Hurford made a motion to approve the Purchase of Gift Cards for Employees Years of Service Celebration scheduled for May 3, 2023. Karra Duff seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

In Mr. Speicher's Superintendent Report, he touched on the open enrollment policy currently being used at ACS. Our open enrollment allows for any student to enroll within Argos Schools throughout the school year. If we moved to a closed enrollment, our enrollment would close near the end of September. Doing so would allow us to use the funds allocated for each student on the count date to better serve their needs. Students who move into the area would still be eligible to enroll. There was discussion among the members and it's possible this may be brought forth as an agenda item next month.

Amy Miller presented the Board with claims totaling \$777,732.39. These claims include accounts payable claims of \$415,693.16 and payrolls totalling \$362,039.23. Jennifer Hurford made a motion to approve the claims with a second by Chris O'Dell. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Speicher presented the Financial Report to the Board which included updated slides showing the sound financial status of Argos Community Schools.

Having no other items for discussion, Karra Duff made a motion to adjourn with a second by Jennifer Hurford. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ARGOS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Pat Rensberger, President

Chris O'Dell, Vice President

Jennifer Hurford, Secretary

Karra Duff, Member

Monty Peden, Member

Board Approved Personnel, April 17, 2023

A. Employment

1. Michael Crum-Full Time Second Shift Custodian
2. Stephanie Riffel-Case Conference Coordinator/Guidance Assistant
3. Debra Thompson-Jr. Sr. High Guidance Counselor
4. Ben Ennis-K-12 Wrestling Club Sponsor

B. Resignation

1. Teri Sabanski-Case Conference Coordinator/Guidance Secretary