March School Board Meeting

March 8th, 2021

The Wheeler Central Board of Education regular meeting was held on March 8th, 2021. Chairman Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. She pointed out the location of the Open Meetings Poster. Members present were: Patrick, Freouf, Pokorny, Wright, Derner, Kasselder, Olson and recording secretary Wagner. Absent: None. Roll call: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye. Others present were Jay Johnson, Abi Parker, Rudy Smith, Rex Day, Ty Growcock, Ashley Growcock, Marcia Smith, Kimmie Reed, Dawn Erickson, Shari Lovitt, Larry Day, Kaye Day. Pokorny made the motion to accept the February minutes and March consent agenda as presented with modifications to the dates of the CWC agreement to be the 2022-23/2023-24 school years rather than the 2023-24/2024-25, as well as the removal of the Americanism topic from the agenda as it was already addressed at last month’s meeting, Wright seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye.

Patrick opened the meeting by welcoming visitors.

Principal/A.D. report by Mr. Johnson. No report given.

PreK-12 Principal/Superintendent report by Mr. Olson. Mr. Olson noted that the third quarter had wrapped up last week. Mr. Olson also reported that tomorrow would begin MAP testing for the district. There were positive remarks on girl’s state basketball tournament including crowd participation and general sportsmanship from players and attendees.

The Board took a moment to recognize and congratulate the CWC girl’s basketball team for a great year and their accomplishments.

Maintenance Report. No report given.

Board Members. The Board members wanted to extend their gratitude for staff members Paul Nordhues and Patti Collins for their dedication and years of service at Wheeler Central Schools. Dennis Derner noted that he was informed about some signs potentially referencing team numbers hung on the statues in Bartlett, and requested that the act be followed up on.

In old business, review masking procedures as discussed prior to implementation in November. There was discussion that staff were notified the prior Wednesday that they had the opportunity to receive a vaccination the following Saturday or Monday(today). It was noted that the CDC recommendation remains that masking is still recommended in public. Wright made the motion to continue masking procedures until April 15th at which time staff would have had the opportunity to receive both doses of the Moderna vaccination, Patrick seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye, Derner nay, Freouf nay, Pokorny nay. Motion fails. Freouf made the motion to switch to voluntary masking the 18th of March and to immediately remove or cease temperature checks and lunchroom partitions, Derner seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick nay, Wright nay, Kasselder aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye. Motion passes.

In new business, review of the 2022-23 negotiation process/board minutes. Wright made the motion to recognize the WCEA as the 2022-23 negotiating entity for certified staff, Pokorny seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye.

Transfer and distribution of additional Fay Blair funds. Mr. Olson discussed the final distribution settlement from the the Fay Blair trust in the approximate amount of $68,000.

Ericson daycare needs and potential partnership with Wheeler Central. There was discussion on the need for an Ericson daycare. It was noted that the Wheeler County Foundation had received a generous donation that could be used for the implementation of a daycare in the Ericson area. There was discussion on what role the district would play in the new possible daycare.

CWC spring coaching needs and concerns. It was noted that the district will be looking at the renewal of the CWC cooperative agreement soon. It was discussed that the renewal should be reviewed at the upcoming CWC subcommittee meeting on March 16th. There was discussion on the need for an additional assistant track coach due to student participation numbers. Wright made the motion to offer Derek Mahoney a CWC assignment letter contingent on Chambers approval and to be consistent with coach to athlete ratio, Kasselder seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye.

Renewal of the CWC cooperative. It was again discussed that this would be reviewed at the CWC subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee will consist of board members Kasselder, Wright and Patrick.

Rule 11 Daycare teacher hire. As a result of retirement and changes in duty assignments we are in need of a certificated teacher to fill our Rule 11 daycare position. It was noted that interviews had taken place and potential hires had been reviewed. Pokorny made the motion to offer a contract to Charissa Sladek as daycare teacher for the 2021-22 school year, Derner seconded. Roll call vote: Patrick aye, Derner aye, Freouf aye, Pokorny aye, Wright aye, Kasselder aye.

Discuss current transportation needs and potential needs for upcoming years. As our transportation needs and services are fluid and ever changing, we must keep open discussions concerning anticipated district needs. Transportation subcommittee will plan to meet before the April board meeting.

Review and discuss the current administrative and instructional structure in light of Rule 10 Accreditation. Wheeler Central, like most small schools, is constantly reviewing its course offerings and certification levels to make sure we are meeting Rule 10 Accreditation requirements. Mr. Olson will be looking at staff roles and make adjustments in an effort to utilize our staff as efficiently as possible.

Derner made the motion to adjourn, Freouf seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Next regular meeting will be April 12, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.