

Wesclin Board of Education  
 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting  
 Tuesday January 21, 2025

I. Regular Meeting

A. Roll Call

The Board of Education of Wesclin Community School District # 3, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, met in a regular session on Tuesday, the 21st day of January 2025, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., at the Wesclin High School in said district.

At the above-named time and place there were present the following officers and members of the Board:

	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Jeff Stroot, President:	X	_____
Tina Litteken, Treasurer:	X	_____
Connie Elmore:	X	_____
Zach Peters:	X	_____
Dustin Biggs:	X	_____
Jared Poettker:	X	_____
Krystal Schmitt:	X	_____

A quorum of the Board members being present, the current president called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

Administrators present:

Jennifer Filyaw, Superintendent:	X	_____
Jamey Rahm:	X	_____
Angela Woll:	X	_____
Zack Huels:	X	_____
Patrick Weathers:	X	_____
Jaime Bonsall:	X	_____

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous regular meeting and of the executive session of November 18, 2024 were approved on a motion by Connie Elmore, seconded by Dustin Biggs.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

C. District Finances

Motion made by Tina Litteken, seconded by Dustin Biggs to approve The Treasurer's Report and payment of payroll in the amount of \$928,006.30 and bills in the amount of \$531,930.47.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

D. Agenda modification

Motion made by Connie Elmore, seconded by Zach Peters to approve agenda as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

E. Superintendent Report

February Board Meeting-

Mrs. Filyaw shared, as a reminder, that the February board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18th due to President's Day.

Graduation Date-

Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 18th at 2:00 pm.

Wesclin/Lebanon Athletic Cooperative Agreement-

Mrs. Filyaw provided our athletic cooperative sports that currently are in place. At this time Wesclin co-op three sports:

- Girls Soccer
- Girls' Basketball
- Softball

Substitute Teachers-

Mrs. Filyaw shared information regarding the district's substitute teacher experience subbing for Wesclin School District.

Chromebook Usage-

At the meeting, Mrs. Filyaw provided the usage limits on the chrome book within the classrooms this school year.

F. Principals' Report:

Mr. Weathers shared that New Baden Elementary is getting back into the swing of things after being gone for Christmas Break. New Baden Elementary held a 100 book reading challenge over the break, where 99 students won and received an ice cream party. Mr. Weathers finished by shouting out the Transportation Dept who have braved the cold and road conditions, getting our students to school safely. A big shout out to Joe Tropeano who has ensured all of the buses are running and keeping warm in the cold temperatures.

Mr. Rahm stated he wanted to give a special shout out to the Maintenance Department for all of their help and hard work getting the sidewalks and building back to normal after the winter storm. He finished by stating a successful Martin Luther King tournament was held and congratulations to the community for making it a success!

Mrs. Woll stated on the SIP day last Friday, the K-3 Teachers had more training regarding the new ELA curriculum. She stated that there was also a CKLA coach that sat in the classrooms for about 20-30 minutes to take notes, and then meet with the teachers afterwards. It was very helpful!

Mrs. Bonsall sent a shout out to Mrs. Garcia who conducted a "How the Grinch Stole Christmas performance" for the ELA Special Education class!

Mr. Huels stated that Wesclin Middle School held Freeze Fest last week and had 6/7/8th Grade class games which were VERY competitive! A shout-out to Mrs. Stempel with StuCo who organized the event! He added by saying congratulations to the Middle School Dance Team who qualified for State this past weekend which will be held February 15 in Springfield! Mr. Huels finished by thanking the Transportation Department for all of their hard work with navigating the routes with the shortage in drivers we have had!

II. Public Comments:

Michelle Washburn shared that she saw the Religion Elective Course addition to the agenda, and she reached out to a couple of board members regarding this and no information was given to her. Mrs. Washburn thinks that bible study should be conducted by professionals only, and that there are several churches and clubs available in this community for children to receive this study. She also stated that she looked into the State standards from the ISBE, and ISBE stated they were unaware of any public schools that offer this type of course. She finished by asking the board members to not vote yes on this course addition without getting more information first.

Brian Draper attended the board meeting and shared that he has had grandchildren who attended Wesclin School District and would like to offer insight regarding the Religion Course addition. Mr. Draper shared what people may not understand, that there are some churches who do not offer a bible study. There may also be students who are not allowed to learn the history of the bible at home, and having it be available at school may be beneficial. He finished by stating that this course would give the history of the Bible to these students.

Nick Bridges shared that he agrees with Mr. Draper regarding the bible being a historical story that needs to be taught to the students. He stated that this elective could be beneficial to many students and an extra opportunity to thrive.

Angie Evans asked that the board gather more information regarding the religion elective before making a decision.

III. Celebration of Success

- A. A HUGE thank you to our social workers Sydney Perez, Katie Wilke, Katie Smith, and Cathy Powers for organizing our annual Christmas gift giving campaign.
- 30 donors/organizations
  - 17 families (received Christmas gifts)
  - 48 students
- B. A big thank you to the custodial and maintenance staff for their excellent work in clearing the snow and ice from our parking lots and sidewalks.

IV. Items Requiring Board of Education Action

A. CTE (Career and Technical Education) Course Additions and Changes- High School

Mrs. Filyaw shared based on teacher certification, it is necessary that changes be made to the districts course offerings/course names. Teachers within the CTE can be certified through work experiences and/or a formal teacher education program.

Currently, Ms. Hemker teaches:

- Agriculture Business Management
- Agriculture Horticulture Science-2 sections
- Agriculture Metal Fabrication (welding)
- Agriculture Mechanics and Technology (small engine)

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Mrs. Filyaw stated that Ms. Jenna Hemker is not certified to teach agriculture metal fabrication and agriculture mechanics and technology. We are recommending that those courses be replaced with Animal Science.

Animal Science:

The basic animal science class will concentrate on the structural areas within farm/food production animals, companion animals, and wildlife.

Major Units of Study Include:

- Introduction to the Animal Science Industry
- Careers in Animal Science
- Anatomy and Physiology in Animals
- Animal Nutrition
- Animal Reproduction
- Animal Health & Veterinary Care
- Animal Behavior
- Basics of Meat & Dairy Science
- Livestock, Wildlife, & Companion Animals

Students will also learn about judging techniques of animals and their products, environmental impacts of animals, and maintaining and growing animal businesses.

Currently, Mr. Burcham teaches the following:

- Drafting 1/Building Trades-rotation
- Introduction to Industry
- Introduction to Drafting/Millwork
- Millwork 1/Automotive Tech-Welding-Rotation

We are recommending that Millwork 1 (on a rotational basis) be replaced with Automotive Technology and Beginning Welding.

Automotive Technology:

- Automotive Technology 1 is a semester course that introduces students to the fundamentals of automotive repair, including engine repair, automatic transmission and trasaxle, manual drivetrain and axles, suspension and steering systems, and brakes.

Beginning Welding:

- Beginning Welding is a semester course that enables students to gain knowledge of the properties, uses, and applications of various metals, skills in various processes used to join and cut metals (such as oxyacetylene, shielded metal, metal insert gas, and tungsten are processes.) Also experience in identifying, selecting, and rating appropriate techniques. Welding courses often include instruction in interpreting blueprints or other types of specifications.

Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Connie Elmore to replace Ag Metal Fabrication (Welding) and Ag Mechanics and Technology (Small Engine) with Animal Science.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

Motion by Tina Litteken seconded by Zach Peters to replace Millwork 1, on a rotational basis, with Automotive Technology and Beginning Welding.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

B. Religion Elective Course Addition- High School

Mr. Biggs approached Mr. Brede regarding a religion course at the High School. Mr. Brede stated that Mr. Biggs shared a curriculum with him, but Mrs. Filyaw stated she had not reviewed the proposed curriculum herself. Mrs. Filyaw stated that upon review, the board would need to see where in the Illinois State Board of Education's course catalog that such a course would apply. She believes it could either be in a Bible ELA course, or within the Religious Education Theology Courses.

Mrs. Filyaw shared that should Mr. Brede were to teach this class, he would need to drop an American History class or a Government class, which both are required by all students to graduate. Mrs. Filyaw shared that Mr. Brede stated "I do not want to give up my schedule of American History or Government courses because these courses are required. Also, doing so might increase class sizes which would present a number of challenges."

The board asked Mrs. Filyaw to get an opinion on this type of course from our attorneys. Based on this information, they would determine the next steps.

Motion by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Jared Poettker to begin researching the possibility of adding a Religion Elective Course in the High School.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-no, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 6-1

C. Federal Impact Aid Submission

Mrs. Filyaw shared that the Impact Aid Program is designed to directly compensate local school districts for costs incurred due to "federally connected" students, such as the children of armed services personnel working at a nearby military base. Unlike most other forms of educational assistance, Impact Aid disburses roughly \$1.2 billion annually unrestricted federal funds directly to local school districts rather than through state agencies.

Mrs. Filyaw stated that last year, the district submitted for the impact aid and will be receiving about \$10,000.00.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Dustin Biggs to approve the federal impact aide grant.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

D. Overnight Field Trip Request

High School Robotics- 19 robotic students are attending the robotics state qualifier in Decatur. They will be in Decatur from February 14-February 15th, and will have 5 chaperones attending with them.

High School Band- 5 students (4 girls and 1 boy) were selected to participate in the Quad-State

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Honor festival in Murray, Kentucky. They will be in Murray from February 20-February 22. Both Mr. Davis and Mrs. Page will be attending the music festival with them.

Motion by Connie Elmore, seconded by Tina Litteken to approve the overnight field trip requests for HS Robotics and HS Band.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

E. Consent Agenda

a. Hire:

- i. John Bursich- We are recommending Mr. Bursich as a bus driver.
- ii. Aden Hill- We are recommending Mr. Hill as a long-term substitute. He will be working in Mrs. Bridger's room.

b. FMLA Leave:

- i. Jodie Bridger- Mrs. Bridger is requesting FMLA leave.

c. Volunteer:

- i. Jeremy Rakers- We are recommending Mr. Rakers as a volunteer bowling coach for Wesclin Middle School.

Motion by Jared Poettker, seconded by Connie Elmore to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

F. Closed Session for the purposes of discussing appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Board or legal counsel for the Board, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the Board or against legal counsel for the Board to determine its validity pursuant to Section 2②(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Jared Poettker, seconded by Connie Elmore to move into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and student discipline. (7:07 p.m.)

Mr. Stroot and Mr. Peters left prior to going into executive session.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 7-0

Motion by Connie Elmore, seconded by Krystal Schmitt to return from closed session into the regular meeting. (7:30 p.m.)

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 5-0

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Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Connie Elmore to keep the executive session minutes from July 2024 through December 2024 closed.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 5-0

VI. Adjournment:

It was moved by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Tina Litteken that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Connie Elmore-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Krystal Schmitt-aye. Motion passes 5-0

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President

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Secretary