**West Fork Community School District Board Minutes**

**Official Proceedings – Regular Meeting – January 20, 2025 – unapproved**

The West Fork Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the Media Center in Sheffield. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Board President, Holly Henricks. Board members present: Grant Petersen, Erin Suntken, Amber Marzen and Travis Butler. Also present were Superintendent Mike Kruger, High School Principal Daren Huisenga, Middle School Principal Lance Thompson, and West Fork Board Secretary Lacey Pueggel.

Visitors: Amy Holden

Constituent Communications: Concerns with the MS Split Season were shared with the board.

Petersen made a motion to approve the Agenda, Minutes from December 16th, 2024, December 2024 Bills/January 2025 Bills, and December 2024 Financials; seconded by Butler. Motion carried 5-0.

Principals Report:

* FAST testing wrapped up in the Elementary
* Professional Development today, discussed how AI can help us as educators, worked in PLCs
* Started Book Study with Staff
* 1st graders in the state of Iowa will receive 2 packs of decodable books that will be sent home tomorrow, these were given by the Department of Education
* The MS/HS had guest speaker Corey Greenwood last week on Friday, was a great presentation
* MS is wrapping up Fast Testing this week
* MS Handbook update due to multiple issues, no cell phones during the school day
* Mr. Borchardt will be taking students to the Student Leadership Convention next week
* Jr’s will have open campus in conjunction with NIACC classes as long as grades and behaviors continue to be good

Superintendent’s Report

1. Day On the Hill
2. North Iowa Consortium Meeting next week due to AEA changes
3. Book Study “The Anxious Generation” 50 staff members participating

**Old Business:**

The Board reviewed information on the Middle School Split Season (Basketball/Wrestling).

**New Business:**

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 Regular session, in the Media Center, 504 Park Street, Sheffield, Iowa 50475, at 5:00 P.M., on the above date. The Board of Directors provided a hybrid option for the members of the Board to participate in the meeting.  There were present President Henricks, in the chair, and the following named Board Members: Suntken, Marzen, Petersen, Butler.

Director Petersen introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption.  Director Butler seconded the motion to adopt.  The roll was called, and the vote was AYES: Suntken, Marzen, Butler, Petersen, Henricks. NAYS: N/A.

The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED $10,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2025, AND LEVYING A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF

WHEREAS, the West Fork Community School District in the Counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, and Wright, State of Iowa, is a public school corporation, organized and existing under the Constitution and laws of the State of Iowa, and is not affected by any special legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the School District in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 296 received a petition, which was signed by qualified electors numbering at least 25% the voters voting at the last regular school election, asking that an election be called, and at a meeting called by the President of the Board of Directors, within ten days after receipt of the petition, called an election and submitted on November 5, 2024, the following proposition:

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?

and gave notice of the election and of the proposition; and

WHEREAS, the election was conducted on the date and the proposition was legally submitted, approved, and no contest was made; and

WHEREAS, none of the Bonds authorized at the election have been issued, and it is now necessary to issue not to exceed $10,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, and to levy a tax for the payment:

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

1. Authorization of the Issuance of General Obligation School Bonds.  General Obligation School Bonds in the amount of not to exceed $10,000,000 (the "Bonds") shall be issued pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 296 for the purposes approved at the election of November 5, 2024.  Additional action shall be taken by the Board of Directors to provide for the issuance of the Bonds upon the sale of the Bonds.
2. Levy of Annual Tax.  For the purpose of providing funds to pay the principal and interest of the Bonds authorized to be issued, there is levied for each fiscal year the following direct annual tax on all the taxable property in the West Fork Community School District in the Counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, and Wright, State of Iowa:

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| --- | --- |
| Amount | Fiscal Year  Ending June 30 |
|  |  |
| $1,161,937 | 2026 |
| $716,425\* | 2027 |
| $717,613\* | 2028 |
| $718,163\* | 2029 |
| $713,075\* | 2030 |
| $717,563\* | 2031 |
| $716,200\* | 2032 |
| $714,200\* | 2033 |
| $716,563\* | 2034 |
| $718,075\* | 2035 |
| $713,738\* | 2036 |
| $713,763\* | 2037 |
| $717,938\* | 2038 |
| $716,050\* | 2039 |
| $713,313\* | 2040 |
| $714,725\* | 2041 |
| $715,075\* | 2042 |
| $714,363\* | 2043 |
| $722,588\* | 2044 |
| $719,325\* | 2045 |

\*Based upon the terms of sale of the Bonds to be issued, this Board will take final action upon the sale of the Bonds to issue the Bonds by amendment to this Resolution ("Amended Resolution").  The Amended Resolution will provide for the assessment of an annual levy upon all the taxable property in the School District sufficient to pay the interest and principal of the Bonds within a period not exceeding twenty (20) years and will be filed with the County Auditor of each County in which the School District is located.  The filing provides that the Auditor annually levy for collection from the taxable property of the School District until funds are realized to pay the bonds in full.

A certified copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the County Auditors of the Counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, and Wright, State of Iowa, who are instructed in and for each of the years, to levy, assess, and collect the tax in the same manner as other taxes of the School District and, when collected, these taxes shall be used only for the purpose of paying principal and interest on the Bonds.

Principal and interest coming due at any time when the proceeds of the tax on hand are insufficient to pay the amount due shall be promptly paid when due from current funds of the District available for that purpose and reimbursement must be made.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of January, 2025.

The Board reviewed timelines for the Phase II project from Piper Sandler and SiteLogiQ. The Phase II project work will go out to bid in August/September 2025, and the work will be completed for the Sheffield Campus in the Summer of 2026 and for the Rockwell Campus in the Summer of 2027.

Following discussion, Marzen moved to approve the 28E agreement as presented to share School Business Official with Central Springs CSD starting July 1, 2025 for 1 day per week; seconded by Suntken. Motion carried 5-0.

Butler moved to approve the Resolution adopting the Cerro Gordo County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the West Fork Community School District Hazard Mitigation Plan as follows, seconded by Marzen.

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was signed into law on October 30, 2000, placing new emphasis on state and local mitigation planning for natural hazards and requiring communities to adopt a hazard mitigation action plan to be eligible for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes; and

WHEREAS, a Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared by Cerro Gordo County Iowa, with assistance from JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Lincoln, NE.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the mitigation plan was to lessen the effects of disasters by increasing the disaster resistance of the region and participating jurisdictions located within the planning boundary by identifying the hazards that affect West Fork Community School District and prioritize mitigation strategies to reduce potential loss of life and property damage from those hazards, and

WHEREAS, FEMA regulations require documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of West Fork CSD in the form of a resolution and further requesting approval of the plan at the Federal Level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of West Fork Community School District does herewith adopt the most recent and FEMA-approved version of the Cerro Gordo County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in its entirety; and Motion carried 5-0. AYES: Petersen, Butler, Marzen, Suntken, Henricks. NAYS: N/A.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of January, 2025

Supt. Kruger shared information on the 2025 Legislative Session and the potential impacts to West Fork CSD.

Petersen moved to approve the 1st reading of the following board policies, 106.01, 106.01E1, 106.01R1, 106.01R2, 106.01R3, 106.01R4, 106.01R5, 405.02, 407.06, 411.02, 413.06, 501.03, 501.09, 501.09R1, 501.12, 501.14, 501.15, 502.06, 503.09, 503.09R1, 704.06, 704.06R1, 707.04, 707.06, 708, 905.03; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Petersen moved to approve the Open Enrollment Request(s) as presented; seconded by Butler. Motion carried 5-0.

Following discussion, Marzen moved to set the public hearing for the 2025-2026 School Calendar for February 17, 2025 at 5pm in the Rockwell Campus, Supt. Office; seconded by Petersen. Motion carried 5-0.

Amy Holden left the meeting at 6:18pm.

Petersen moved to approve a contract to Natasha Thomas, 1:1 paraeducator at the Rockwell Campus; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Petersen moved to approve a contract to Rodney Huber to serve as the JH Girls Track Coach; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Petersen moved to approve a contract to Corey Smith to serve as the JH Boys Track Coach; seconded by Marzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Marzen moved to approve the resignation of Kayden Ames, JJV Baseball Coach; seconded by Butler. Motion carried 5-0.

Marzen moved to approve the retirement of Jill Rowe, Title I Instructor; seconded by Butler. Motion carried 5-0. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to the district.

Marzen moved to approve the retirement of Laura Schafer, HS English/LA; seconded by Butler. Motion carried 5-0. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to the district.

Announcements: The FEMA Saferoom Closeout has been completed and all paperwork was submitted to FEMA.

Mike, Ashley, and Lacey will be attending the Budget workshop in Cedar Falls on Wednesday, January 22nd.

Other Business: ASBO Leadership Forum.

Next Board Meeting: February 17th at 5:00pm in Rockwell in the Superintendent’s Office.

Marzen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm; seconded by Butler. Motion carried 5-0.

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Board President – Holly Henricks Board Secretary – Lacey Pueggel