

ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2003
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Goodnow at 7:15 p.m. in the South Campus Conference Room.

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Jack Goodnow, John Greidanus, Jack Gutschenritter (arrived at 7:37 p.m.), Randy Howell, Joe LeBlanc, Judie Ristow, Bob Rosch, Sue Schultz, Al Zietlow

Administration present: Dave Lodes, Steve Kopecky, Bonnie Laugerman, Gregg Wiczorek
Also present: Kristi Haunfelder, Lake Country Reporter and April Kucharski, UW-M Student

The meeting was properly posted.

Moved by Rosch, seconded by Zietlow to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2003, Regular Board meeting and October 21, 2003, Special Board meeting as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by LeBlanc, seconded by Ristow to approve the operating bill list and pay vouchers 095491-095630 and 095673-096042 in the amount of \$791,740.14. Motion Carried. The Board of Education requested that the Finance Committee review the current procedure for Board of Education approval of the bill list and release of accounts payable checks and bring their recommendations to the December 2003 regular Board meeting.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS – President Goodnow welcomed April Kucharski, an Arrowhead High School alumnus, class of 1999. Ms. Kucharski stated that she is currently pursuing a teaching degree at UW-M, and she is here this evening to experience a school board meeting as part of her Cultural Education class.

Mr. Greidanus announced that his daughter, Heather, a graduate of Arrowhead High School, class of 2000, has been accepted at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Mr. Greidanus credits Arrowhead High School for giving Heather the academic foundation for her success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Lodes reported that the second 6-week session of school concludes November 21, 2003, and students are doing well. The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) was administered to sophomores last week. The budgeting cycle for 2004/2005 begins in early December. Teachers have set their individual goals; department chairs have set department goals. The focus is on our reading, writing, and careers initiatives, and staff continues to work on the standards and assessments.

On November 15, 2003, the girls' swim team will compete in the state championship in Madison, and the football team will compete in the state semifinals in Racine. Dr. Lodes noted that the fall athletic activities involved a record 790-800 students, while many other students were involved in academic cocurricular activities. He also noted that the average number of cocurricular activities our students participate in is 2.3 activities each.

CURRICULUM – Chairperson Goodnow reviewed the minutes of the November 4, 2003, meeting.

Jack Gutschenritter arrived at this time.

Moved by Ristow, seconded by Greidanus to approve course proposals/changes for the 2004/2005 school year as presented. Motion Carried.

Dr. Lodes presented background information regarding the WKCE Incentives Pilot Proposal. The WKCE (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam) is a 5-hour test given statewide to sophomores in language arts, math, science, and social studies. However, students may opt out of the exam with parental permission. Students have stated that the WKCE is of no value to them and their time is better spent on other things. A few years ago, as many as 20% of sophomores opted not to take the WKCE exam, with parental permission.

The current mandate for compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act requires that 95% of sophomores take the exam or the school district could be subject to the consequences of being declared a "school in need of improvement." The WKCE Incentives Pilot Proposal would give students an incentive to take the exam and was developed with input from students and staff. Under the proposal, if a sophomore takes the WKCE and proves to be Proficient or Advanced in a discipline, with parental permission, the student may opt out of the final semester exam in the course that correlates with that respective discipline. The student may only opt out of the final semester exam, and only in a sophomore-equivalent curriculum course, not an advanced course. Since the final semester exam counts only 1/5 to 1/7 of the final grade, students would still have to do well throughout the year, even if they are able to opt out of the final semester exam. The student would also have the option to take the final semester exam to possibly improve their final grade.

The Curriculum Committee unanimously recommends approval of the WKCE Incentives Pilot Proposal.

Moved by Ristow, seconded by Schultz to approve the WKCE Incentives Pilot Proposal as presented for a period of one year with review by the Board of Education prior to its future implementation. Following further discussion, Judie Ristow called for the question. Yes – 8 and No – 1 (Zietlow). Motion Carried.

FINANCE & LEGISLATION – Chairperson LeBlanc reported that the Finance Committee met on October 17, 2003, and reviewed proposals to refinance the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) prior service pension liability. Every school district in the state incurred this unfunded liability, which was created in 1982 when three pension funds merged to create the current Wisconsin Retirement System. Under a 40-year repayment schedule, our annual premium to the State of Wisconsin is 1 percent of eligible WRS wages at an 8 percent interest rate. The current balance of this debt is \$1,679,486. At this time, the annual premium payment is not enough to cover interest charges; therefore, the principal balance of this unfunded liability is increasing.

Dave Noack, Financial Advisor with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, presented two refinancing proposals, one having a variable interest rate and one a fixed interest rate. The current variable interest rate is 1.78%. Based on future estimated variable interest rates, the debt would be paid in 17 years, with a total estimated interest savings of \$1,701,704 over the life of the loan; the annual payments would remain the same. The Finance Committee recommends the variable interest rate refinancing option.

Moved by Zietlow, seconded by Greidanus to authorize the issuance and providing for the sale of not to exceed \$1,625,000 taxable variable rate note anticipation notes, series 2003 and providing for the payment of said notes and other details and covenants with respect thereto (attached). The motion was amended to include that the annual principal and interest payment on the refinanced debt should be no less than 1 percent of eligible WRS wages. Roll Call Vote: Ristow – aye, Zietlow – aye, Gutschenritter – aye, Greidanus – aye, Howell – aye, Rosch – aye, LeBlanc – aye, Schultz – aye, Goodnow – aye. Amended Motion Carried.

Chairperson LeBlanc also reported that the Finance Committee would meet on November 19, 2003, to review the 2002/2003 Financial Audit Report in its new format. The audit report will be an action item at the December 10, 2003, regular Board of Education meeting.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Chairperson Zietlow stated that agenda items for the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting in December would include the Preventative Maintenance and Capital Replacement Plans and status of the pool reconstruction.

PERSONNEL – Closed session report.

POLICY – The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2003.

WASB – The Board of Education reviewed the WASB Legislative Services Department Update, dated October 30, 2003. Mr. Zietlow indicated that he would be attending the WASB Licensure Rules, NCLB & Your Contract seminar on November 14, 2003, in Madison.

CESA – No report.

ADSEC – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Ristow, seconded by Rosch to approve the contract for Terese Styba (Destination Imagination Advisor). Motion Carried.

Moved by Schultz, seconded by Gutschenritter that pursuant to State Statute 19.85(1)(c)(e), the Board will move into closed session and reconvene to address public business matters.

Roll Call Vote: Greidanus – aye, Howell – aye, Rosch – aye, LeBlanc – aye, Gutschenritter – aye, Goodnow – aye, Ristow – aye, Zietlow – aye, Schultz – aye. Motion Carried.

Moved by Zietlow, seconded by Howell to move into open session.

Roll Call Vote: Goodnow – aye, Greidanus – aye, Gutschenritter – aye, Howell – aye, LeBlanc – aye, Ristow – aye, Rosch – aye, Schultz – aye, Zietlow – aye. Motion Carried.

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Moved by Ristow, seconded by Howell to advance to the mediation process in an attempt to conclude teacher contract negotiations. Motion Carried.

Moved by LeBlanc, seconded by Rosch to adjourn. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hoag
Recording Secretary

Susan M. Schultz, Clerk