

Official Minutes
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Work Session

1. Call to Order

President Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held fully virtual via Google Meets.

2. Roll Call by Ms. Clark

Ms. Baumgartner - Present	Ms. Gustafson - Present	Mr. Haffner - Present	Ms. Hayes - Present	Mr. Jensen - Joined 6:32 p.m.
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3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Baumgartner noted that Mr. Jensen joined the meeting during the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:32 p.m.

4. Review of Agenda

Ms. Baumgartner asked Board members to review the agenda.

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 Financial Audit Report

Dr. Rabenhorst introduced Melissa Bigler with Anderson & Whitney who joined the meeting to review the main components of the FY21 Financial Audit Report, including the management letter. Dr. Rabenhorst reminded the Board members that the audit was delayed due to additional federal funds received and expended which required more “testing” by the auditing firm. An extension by CDE was granted which is why the audit was not reviewed and approved prior to December 31. Ms. Bigler first reviewed the management letter which contained three findings, one of which will be removed as it has been rectified. This will be shown in the final management letter. Ms. Bigler then reviewed a summary document with highlights of the audit rather than doing a page by page review of the report. The review included statement of net position, governmental fund balance sheet, and statement of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance. Ms. Clark also noted the increase in general fund balance as a result of schools not spending their full budgets. Generally this was related to the impacts of the pandemic. Board members indicated that if there are changes to the final report, those should be pointed out but if there were not significant changes, Ms. Bigler would not be needed at the regular meeting on January 26 where the Board will have a second review of the audit.

5.2 Staff Mid-Year Compensation Proposal (1st Reading)

The Meet & Confer Joint Committee met on January 5 to discuss a potential compensation benefit for all staff. Dr. Rabenhorst explained that at the September meeting, the group agreed to convene during the development of the adjusted budget to determine if additional compensation would be available. Ms. Clark reported that approximately \$425,000 of revenue was available for additional expenditures and that this is due to higher than projected

enrollment. Based on this information, the Joint Committee recommended a retention benefit for all employees. The proposal includes one time payments to all licensed staff in the amount of \$1250 and classified staff in the amount of \$700. This would total approximately \$350,000. Directors Baumgartner and Jensen were a part of the Joint Committee meeting, and both voiced support for the proposal with no changes. Dr. Rabenhorst also recommended Board members accept the proposal. Ms. Gustafson indicated that the district should provide this to show our teachers how much they are appreciated. Others individually expressed their support for the proposal. By consensus the Board directed Dr. Rabenhorst to move forward with communicating to staff that the Board members are in agreement with the proposal and will be having a second reading on the proposal on January 26.

5.3 FY22 Adjusted Budget (1st Reading)

The FY21-22 Budget must be adjusted at the January regular meeting. Board members were provided a document which included a summary of the major funds as adjusted by Ms. Clark. Ms. Clark reviewed the major revenue changes and assumptions as well as adjustments to the expenditures. This included updated enrollment figures affecting revenue and finalized full time equivalents for staffing now that those levels are known. Revenue reflected actual enrollment data which will be provided under the School Finance Act based on the district's assessed valuation. Ms. Clark noted that adjustments have also been made based on the latest information regarding revenue and expenditures for federal pandemic relief funds. Ms. Clark also noted that the budget included the proposed retention benefit as previously discussed on the agenda. The full adjusted budget along with final revisions will be reviewed at the January regular meeting including all 11 funds. Ms. Clark shared the amount of fund balance that is proposed to carry forward and how this could be used for the upcoming budget to increase wages to recruit and retain staff.

5.4 WCHS Course Description Book for the 2022-2023 School Year (1st Reading)

The WCHS course description book is revised annually and approved by the Board. Ms. Dwyer, assistant principal, joined the meeting to report on the updated booklet. This year, there were no course additions and deletions that went through the administrative approval process. Thus, changes overall were minimal but each was pointed out by Ms. Dwyer. The section regarding graduation requirements was first reviewed noting the change to 32 available credits due to the adoption of the block schedule. Dr. Rabenhorst shared the policy implications of the block schedule and how it will be reviewed and revised by the Board going forward later this spring. Ms. Hayes asked about how it might affect varying cohorts of students, and Dr. Rabenhorst indicated that these are the details that administration needs to review for recommendation to the Board. Ms. Dwyer then shared additional changes including changes to deadlines, identification of the four graduation pathways being developed, and a form that was removed at the end of the document. Board members asked that any new changes be highlighted for second reading so that they would be more easily identified.

5.5 Family Community Engagement and Communications Support Proposal with Colorado Education Initiative

District leadership team, the Superintendent's Advisory Council, and the District Accountability Committee have all discussed concerns with student retention in the district, primarily from the Lochbuie community. Dr. Rabenhorst shared a proposal from Colorado Education Initiative outlining a process of stakeholder engagement, including staff and community members, to identify strengths within our schools and develop a "graduate profile" which would be a summary of what our community wants Weld Central graduates to possess when they move to the next level. All of this would culminate in materials that would help the district and all schools market our strengths. Dr. Rabenhorst would like to utilize experts from the Colorado Education Initiative to facilitate this process. Dr. Rabenhorst reviewed each phase of the process. Director Jensen expressed concerns with communication and engagement with the community and asked if this process would improve and lead to longer engagement by the community. He also inquired as to whether this process and its products would be a direct comparison document against other districts that students may enroll in. Dr. Rabenhorst explained that it would not provide those direct comparisons but would highlight the district and school strengths. He also explained how the communications piece is a separate section of the proposal as it would include a third party contractor to help with visual and digital communications. Director Jensen expressed his support for the process and hopes it will lead to improved ways of communicating to the community as well as their engagement. Each of the other Board members expressed their support and indicated that they did not feel a need to have CEI representatives present directly to the Board. Dr. Rabenhorst was directed to proceed with this work including consulting with CEI on the best timeline to proceed. Some discussion was had regarding doing the work this spring and summer or waiting to start the process until the start of the new school year.

5.6 Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation and Executive Team Goal Review

Dr. Rabenhorst and President Baumgartner discussed the mid-year evaluation and determined the most productive use of time would be to have the executive team join the meeting and review progress on the superintendent goals for the year. Dr. Rabenhorst introduced each of the goal areas and leaders shared information in addition to the written update that was provided. Ms. Langlois reviewed the pathways development work which is geared at increasing graduation rates. Ms. Orbanosky reviewed how leaders are engaging in data reviews and the progress being made on the curriculum guides. Dr. Rabenhorst explained how the leadership team has worked to develop a strong training sequence for the newly adopted elementary ELA curriculum, and the progress on those trainings was reviewed. Dr. Rabenhorst also indicated that the financial e-newsletter series is on track and that the leadership team exceeded their goal for classroom observations during first semester. Ms. Gustafson commented on how important administration visibility is in the schools. Ms. Baumgartner asked each Board member for their input on the need for an executive session at the upcoming meeting to further complete a mid-year review and each member indicated that they did not see a need for that as this meeting's review of the goals was sufficient for a mid-year evaluation review.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 7:54.

Cynthia Baumgartner

Paul Jones