



BOARD BRIEF

The Washington Community High School District #308 Board of Education consists of seven members who are elected by the community to serve a four year term.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Board Meeting
March 12 (7:00 PM)

February 2018 Board Meeting Summary



Highlights of Reports and Discussion Items

The following items were presented to the board:

Student Council Report – Student Council members reported that St. Jude week will begin February 26, and will include the Hoops for Hope game against Morton. The Vice Versa dance will be held March 3.

Public Hearing – The Board of Education conducted a public hearing for the issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District. The option to issue bonds is related to possible facilities projects that are necessary to accommodate growing student enrollment. No one in attendance voiced comments or issued written testimony concerning the issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds. The board approved the motion.

English Department – Jennifer Reiser provided an update about the [English department](#). The department has 11 teachers with 223 years of combined teaching experience, and their greatest strength is collaboration within the department. Student accomplishments include success in early college courses with 64% of students passing the Advanced Placement (AP) exam for the new English 3 AP Honors course, 83 Composition 1H students receiving dual credit, and 54% of students meeting or exceeding SAT ELA standards compared to 40% statewide. Speech and Journalism teams were successful in regional competition with advancement to state, and senior Olivia Bennett's novel, poem and short story were selected by Scholastic to continue in national contest. The department is involved in professional development such as Project CRISS and AP instruction training, graduate courses, conferences, and school leadership. The department remains focused on student SAT preparation and consistent writing instruction across the curriculum. The department is committed to continuously improving curriculum and meeting the needs of students.

Financial Report – The district continues to have a strong financial standing. The [February Financial Snapshot](#) shows that the district has received all 2017 categorical funding including general state aid. The Illinois State Board of Education will complete Evidence-Based Funding data collection soon and payments will begin in April based on the assigned tier. Overall, expenses are similar to last year and revenue is coming in as anticipated.

Board Goals Update – Dr. Freeman shared information about [board goal progress](#). All goals are progressing as planned and detailed information about each goal will be presented on a monthly schedule for the remainder of the school year.

Board Committee Reports – The policy, curriculum, and facilities committees did not meet.

Insurance Committee: The committee discussed healthcare utilization, funding, and the possibility of a premium holiday.

Finance Committee: The committee met on [January 25](#) and [February 7](#) to discuss growing student enrollment, classroom changes/upgrades, staffing needs, and bond restructuring.

Resignations – The following staff submitted a resignation: Kelsey Knott, Food Services Director; Scott Foster, Dean of Students (internal transfer); Maggie Mose, Business Teacher.

Future Staffing – Dr. Freeman presented an overview of staffing needs over the next three years related to growing student enrollment. The board verbally approved posting openings for a special education and social studies teacher for the 2018-19 school year. The board and administration will continue to discuss future staffing needs.

February 2018 Board Meeting Summary



Highlights of Reports and Discussion Items (cont.)

The following items were presented to the board:

P.E. Waivers – Due to recent changes in legislation, sophomores will be eligible to receive a P.E. waiver if they participate in a qualifying activity such as athletics or marching band.

Lacrosse – The board and administration discussed adding lacrosse as an IHSA sport at WCHS. The board was very interested in the prospect and asked several questions for the administration to answer. Overall the board was in favor of students having this opportunity as long as participation is robust, the program can be implemented well and the timing is right based on other large-scale projects. The administration will prepare answers to the questions posed and resume the conversation at a future board meeting.

Breakfast Pricing – The board approved a 10 cent [increase in price](#) for student and adult breakfast for the 2018-19 school year. The new price will be \$1.50.

School Calendar – The board approved the [2018-19 School Calendar](#).

Resolution declaring the intention to issue bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District – The board approved the resolution declaring the intention to issue \$3,500,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds. The board clarified that this is an option to issue bonds, but it may not be exercised.

Meeting with Engineering Firms – The board collectively scheduled a meeting on February 20 to meet with engineering firms.



Highlights of Action Items

The following items were approved:

Personnel – The Board of Education approved the following personnel changes:

Certified Personnel: The board approved the employment of Ashley Neal, School Psychologist; Kelley Jo Sutherland and Abbie Johnson, Long-Term Math Subs

Non-Certified Personnel: The board approved the employment of Laura McCue-Newport, Director of Food Services.

Leave of Absence: The board approved a leave of absence for Karen Catton, Secretary.

Links of interest



[Finance Report](#)



[January Approved Minutes](#)



[February Board Agenda](#)

Board of Education Members

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The information in this document is intended to be a general summary of the board meeting results and does not include all topics discussed. If there is a discrepancy between this summary and the official board meeting materials, the official documents prevail.