

The Welch Board of Education of Independent School District I017 of Craig County, State of Oklahoma, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the Multipurpose/Board Room in the Delbert Lovelace High School, 707 South Curtis Street, Welch, Oklahoma.

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Board of Education of Welch Public Schools, District I017 of Craig County, Oklahoma, do hereby certify that at least 24 hours prior to the meeting excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, notices of date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting were posted in prominent public view at the location of the meeting.

Rowdy Layton, Clerk of the Board of Education

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Shane Burgess. Members present were President Burgess, Vice President Jesse Highsmith, Clerk Rowdy Layton, and Member Shannon Walker. Deputy Clerk Brian Mooney was absent. Administrators present were Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Ramsey, Middle and High School Principal Stacy Ezell, and Elementary School Principal Kimberley Hall.

A quorum was established.

President Burgess led the Pledge of Allegiance

There was no request for Public Participation.

Superintendent Ramsey noted January was School Board Recognition month stating Welch Public Schools is fortunate to have five dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and energy to govern the District and thanked them for their service. He also thanks Opa! And Melissa Gonzalez for furnishing a meal for the Board members tonight.

Middle and High School Principal Stacy Ezell reported enrollment in High School has reached 100 and the middle school enrollment had also increased to 65 students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. She reported Basketball homecoming is this Friday and Senior Night is scheduled February 10. Mason Clinton earned his red jacket by being named to the all-star football team for Class C. Bolt ran cables for the new telephone system and will be scheduling more days in the future for installation of the equipment. Teachers finished the second benchmark testing and met with her today to review student objectives.

Elementary School Principal Kimberley Hall reported the elementary enjoyed the Christmas activities and acknowledged Welch State Bank's participation for the children. The Christmas program was a success with dress up days and classroom Christmas parties where parents were allowed to be in attendance. There were Employee Games after school and ornament exchange. The 5th/6th grade Quiz Bowl team qualified for regional tournament after Districts. Elementary enrollment continues to increase.

Both expressed their appreciation for the support the Board members give to the administration.

Mr. Ramsey reported the total enrollment for the District was up to 304, which exceeds one of his beginning goals of 300 students. What we stand for and what we do contributes to the increase in enrollment. Welch does not have the reputation of disruption, and has good things said by the staff and students, including on social media.

He gave an update on the rebuilding of the gymnasium. Bid requests went out on the 20th of January. The pre-bid meeting was successful with good participation from HVAC and dirt work companies. The Architect and Construction Manager conducted the meeting. Three to four companies expressed interest in the steel and metal for the building. Bid opening will be held January 21, and the Construction Manager thinks bids and contracts will be ready for the next meeting of the Board to review for approval.

The contractor for the baseball dugout is supposed to be on site next week.

Mr. Ramsey will be attending the CCOSA conference next week and meeting with legislative representatives. Today's issues concern a flatline education budget due to other items in the State budget being considered. Cellphones in the classroom will also be an issue that will be addressed this session.

Budget with midterm adjustment will be a positive \$35,300 midterm increase in State Aid. G/T count increased by three or four for this year.

General Fund collections are at 2.5 million dollars as of 12/31. No federal program monies in that amount as the State is still behind on approving applications and claims. Mr. Ramsey reviewed expenditures and ad valorem receipts. Building Fund expenditures are up for the month of December and Redbud allocations due any day.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 7A Minutes of the December 9, 2024, regular board meeting; Item 7B Treasurer's Report, Activity Fund Report, and status of all funds and investments; Item 7C FY25 General Fund Purchase Orders #269-284, Building Fund Purchase Orders #58-61, and Insurance Loss Fund Purchase Orders #14-15; Item 7D FY25 General Fund Warrants #471-588; and Item 7F Fundraising Activities Requests by the Athletics Department to sell Wildcat Nation decals from January through May, FFA to hold a Labor Auction and Pie Supper between January and May, the Baseball and Softball teams to have a 100 inning slow pitch softball game between February and May, and the Baseball team to solicit community team sponsorships between February and May. Mr. Ramsey discussed presenting a master fundraiser list for the Board to approve annually in June for the upcoming year. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Shannon Walker, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

There were no facility rental requests presented to the Board for consideration.

The Board then proceeded to Item 8B on the agenda as the Audit presentation was delayed until 6:00 PM due to a scheduling conflict with the Auditors.

Motion to approve transferring activity account monies on the following: 1) Athletics 803 \$50.00 to TSA 827, Sooter Tournament Plaques; 2) Athletics 803 \$1,000.00 to 806 Junior Class (\$300), 818 BPA (\$300), 821 After Prom (\$300), 848 Football (\$50), 849 Baseball (\$50). This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to approve FY25 Quarter 3 District Transfer Capacity. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Shannon Walker, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to approve assigning the following Professional Development on a five-year basis for employees and for new hire employees: 1) Digital Teaching and Learning; 2) Racial and Ethnic Education; 3) Workplace Safety Training, and 4) Family and Community Engagement. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to approve the Draft Copy of the RFR Board Policy Manual Section 1, 2, 3, and 4 to include IRS reimbursement rate for mileage reimbursement. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Shannon Walker, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Courtney Odom, CPA, of the auditing firm of Patten & Odom, CPAs, PLLC, presented the 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report to the Board. Following the presentation, motion to acknowledge the FY24 Audit as presented by a representative of Patten & Odom, CPAs, PLLC. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to approve the finalized project manual and drawings on the gym construction. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to convene in Executive Session pursuant to OKLA. STAT. Title 25 § 307 (B)(1), (Supp.2002), to discuss the following items, so that the board can return to Open Session and possible board action to approve: 1) Evaluation of Jeremy Ramsey, Superintendent of Schools; 2) Employment Contract for Jeremy Ramsey, Superintendent of Schools; 3) Resignation/Retirement of Greg Cruzan, Certified Art Teacher; 4) Payment for Unused Sick Leave to Greg Cruzan, and 5) Retirement of LaChrista Earll, 3rd Grade Teacher. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Shannon Walker, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:42 PM.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:11 PM. President Burgess reported he, Vice President Highsmith, Clerk Layton, and Member Walker, along with Superintendent Ramsey, met in Executive Session pursuant to OKLA. STAT. Title 25 § 307 (B)(1), (Supp.2002), to discuss the evaluation and contract of Superintendent Ramsey, the resignation/retirement and sick leave payment requests of Greg Cruzan, and the retirement of LaChrista Earll. No other items were discussed while in Executive Session and no vote was taken.

There was no action taken on the evaluation of Jeremy Ramsey, Superintendent of Schools.

Motion to approve a one-year extension of the employment contract for Jeremy Ramsey, Superintendent of Schools. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Shannon Walker, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to accept the resignation/retirement of Greg Cruzan, Art Teacher. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Shannon Walker, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to approve the request to reimburse Greg Cruzan for sick leave not used for TRS purposes according to board policy. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Motion to accept the retirement of LaChrista Earll, 3rd Grade Teacher. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

There was no new business presented to the Board for consideration or vote.

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Jesse Highsmith and seconded by Rowdy Layton, passed.

Shane Burgess: Yea, Jesse Highsmith: Yea, Rowdy Layton: Yea, Brian Mooney: Absent, Shannon Walker: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Shane Burgess, President

Shannon Walker, Member

Jesse Highsmith, Vice President

Brian Mooney, Deputy Clerk

Rowdy Layton, Clerk

An official record of these minutes is on file in the Office of the Superintendent, 707 South Curtis Street, Welch, Oklahoma 74369.

Mona Stines, Board Minutes Clerk