

The notes below were written by the chair of the WLCSC Board of Trustees, Rachel Witt, and sent to the members of the WLCSC board of trustees, the Superintendent of schools, date as noted. They were written as documents to aid collaboration and contain both informative and deliberative items. They are informal communication, written with the sole purpose of information to board members to facilitate individual members' ability to execute the task each were elected to do. They were not written for any form of publication.

Writing of these weekly notes and distribution to the board is voluntary and can be stopped at any time. A school board may decline to distribute information that is deliberative. Deliberative is defined, in part, as expressions of opinion or thoughts that are of a speculative nature, and that are communicated for the purpose of decision making. Nearly all language in these notes exactly fit the description of deliberative.

The Board Chair, in consultation with corporation and board leadership, is releasing these documents, only minimally redacted, as part of our ongoing work for transparency. Names/pronouns are redacted to ensure a first-person voice. Other redacted language could include: Legally protected information, i.e. personnel or student names or reference, deliberative information where release of the information could potentially cause harm to a person or group of persons, or inhibit the ability of the board to conduct the business of the board.

Redacted Text is noted by <Redacted Text>

2.18.2023 notes

As always, these notes are confidential. If you have any item you are interested in more conversation about, please let me know. I will set up a time with you. You are also always welcome to add comments to these notes if you have additional resources that would benefit the board. Rachel

Board/Development - Training

- Reminder to the board to continue to follow the weekly ISBA Legislative Notes. Also, as mentioned in the meeting, I encourage you to read the source documents directly as your time allows. While I appreciate the work of the ISBA to inform and educate its membership, I have always found reading proposed legislation to be illuminating. You can find it here: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2023/bills/>
- I requested that <Redacted Text> seek out a local board training & development opportunity through Dr. Judi Hendrix at the Wabash Valley Education Center. For those of you new to the board Dr. Hendrix did an excellent job facilitating our annual corporation priorities retreat and because this is local to us eliminating travel expenses is a cost-effective approach. I do not have a specific amount yet, but will seek one out. The anticipated training topics are: Teamwork. Communication. Appropriate Role of a Board Member. The preferred dates are between April 5th - April 28th. I anticipate an evening training of perhaps two hours. Please send me any comments/concerns/questions about this training. Once I have heard back

from everyone, I will get answers to questions and we'll work through scheduling.

- Email exchange this week between members led to a question regarding what constitutes a “secret meeting”. I forwarded inquiry to legal and as promised, here is clarification <Redacted Text> at CCHA:<Redacted Text>

While I was mistaken in my understanding of the “electronic meeting” and appreciate member <Redacted Text> questioning of my understanding, I continue to remind all members that the healthy function of a school board requires that assumptions not be made about any other members’ opinion or value, particularly when sharing information. We do not, as individual members or groups of members, have the authority to direct the actions of our superintendent or **anyone** in day to day operations of our schools. Communications sent to our leadership attempting to direct the day to day running of the schools, expends time unnecessarily as they must be rejected by our Superintendent and staff. Our only authority as a board is when we come together in a meeting, so information that could inform the board to the best decision for students should be shared with the full board. That is the explicit stated purpose for these box notes. Please use them.

Meetings of the Board

- Regular meeting held on 2/13, 6:30 PM. Meeting information has been posted on the website. I have received edits to minutes from <Redacted Text> based upon our discussion and votes at meetings. I will review those this weekend so they can also be uploaded.
- Our 2/13 meeting ran for almost three hours continuously. At the request of several members, going forward if we have a meeting that exceeds two hours, I will announce a 10-minute break at the two-hour mark. Additionally, I will remind all members that comments you made during a meeting should be germane to the topic, concisely stated, non-redundant information, and in the appropriate role of a board member.

Community/Patron Feedback

- x 1 patron through member <Redacted Text> with questions related to math placement process. Patron name and contact information was not provided. <Redacted Text> has requested that and will redirect this escalation appropriately.
- x1 patron<Redacted Text> response received about policy related to participation by homeschool students in WLCSC co/extra-curricular activities. Acknowledgement sent with cc to full board.
- x1 patron <Redacted Text> reporting that the sound was intermittent with the livestream recording. Response sent. See note below regarding meeting location.
- X1 former employee <Redacted Text> regarding information they have been receiving through our sports trainers’ <Redacted Text> athlete health

management system. Escalation to superintendent. Response sent cc to full board as information only.

General Business

- We continue to have difficulty with the livestream tech. <Redacted Text> is doing all that he can to make this work effectively, but the room and the retrofitting of the equipment are continual struggles. <Redacted Text> and I have had conversations about perhaps considering the former library at HH as an alternate permanent meeting location. We have also discussed returning to the corporation office conference room for regular meetings, but I am skeptical that we can livestream from that location and it would be space limiting for our student and staff recognition portions of our meeting. If you have any thoughts on this, please share them.
- Scheduled to meet with Policy Committee members on 2/23. In our 2/13 meeting member <Redacted Text> inquired as to if this meeting is considered a public meeting. As I explained to the board, this is more of the 'board doing their homework' to prepare for a meeting held in public. There are no minutes. There are no votes or decisions. When we meet as a group it is to look at specific language, identify conflicts, and write any suggested verbiage changes to then be presented to the full board. It has not ever been something we have needed to do before; typically, the training of a new member(s) on topics such as policy would happen in the mentorship setting. but if after seeing this work of the policy committee, there needs to be further substantial discussion among the board in a public setting (beyond the dual reading format already established), I will recommend we consider a work session. Understand that an additional work session will likely further delay the vote. Based upon:
 1. our work session already held on this matter,
 2. feedback given from members during the work session,
 3. that the board has been working collectively towards an increase in transparency on documents for over a year,
 4. and has duly directed our superintendent to this priority,

I'm anticipating there is already general consensus about what policy changes may come forward as recommendations from the board.

- I anticipate redacting chair notes for the first six weeks of the year as discussed in our 2/13 meeting over the weekend and will release to <Redacted Text> for posting on the website when they are ready.