



New Castle Community

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The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, April 17, 2017. Those present were: Mrs. Elizabeth Whitmer, Mrs. Nannett Polk, Mr. Jamey Marcum, Mr. Travis Callaway, Mr. Kim Williamson, Mr. Stephen Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. William Pheffer, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Mrs. Megan Bell, Director of Finance; and Dr. Greg Crider, Corporation Attorney.

Others present were Susan Delay, Nancy Dickerson, Janet Maxwell, Amy Blake, Jaci Hadsell, Chris Lamb, Dustin Chew, Aimee Flynn, Travis Weik, and Chris Walker.

The minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Callaway, as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mr. Williamson, the agenda was unanimously approved, as presented.

There were no questions or comments on agenda items.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 57335 through 57569); Payroll Claims and Donations; Field Trip Requests; Submitted Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements; and Fund Reports were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mr. Callaway and seconded by Mr. Marcum, as submitted.

Board members previously received copies of Board Policy Volume 28, Number 2; and Volume 29, Number 1, at the March meeting. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mrs. Polk, both policies were unanimously approved, as recommended. The legal firm Neola provides updates when there are changes in the law.

Board members previously received a copy of the textbook adoption for Science, Grades 6th, 7th and 8th. McGraw-Hill is the publisher with a cost of \$84.99. On a motion by Mr. Williamson and seconded by Mrs. Polk, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Board members previously received a copy of quotes for student 1:1 devices for Grades K, 1st, and 5th. The lowest vendor bid is \$190.00 per HP Chromebook 11" device from Pro Tech. A discussion was held on the five year life cycle of the devices for hard-

ware and support. Teachers will receive training in the fall. In order to keep expenses down for students, the cost will be divided among capital project, textbook and technology funds. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mrs. Polk, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Board members previously received a copy of the textbook adoption for 1:1 devices for Grades K, 1st, and 5th. Following the approval to purchase the 1:1 devices, it is being recommended to use the devices as a textbook. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mr. Williamson, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Mr. Pheffer provided an update from maintenance and transportation. There are 28 student days left in the school year. Teachers will be finished before Memorial Day. Spring break allowed time to clean carpets; address issues outside of the buildings; and maintain buses. Crews are trying to keep up with acres of mowing and an extra mower has been purchased. Weeds are not chemically treated next to buildings for safety of students and staff. Many summer projects are scheduled. The architectural firm of Stair and Associates have been hired to help spec, bid, and oversee the High School south lot paving project. Bids will be presented for board approval during the June meeting. The project is expected to last into early September. Quotes are now being accepted for the Eastwood partial re-roofing project. These are due to Mr. Pheffer by 9 A.M. on May 2nd which is the quote opening. The public is welcomed to attend. His recommendation will be part of the May 8th board meeting. Summer school will be offered at the High School. Mr. Pheffer thanked the New Castle Street Department for sweeping our parking lots and playgrounds, picking up sand leftover from the winter. The city's Easter Egg Hunt was held at the High School parking lot. Mayor York gathered up the leftovers himself early the next morning. Mr. Pheffer noted the cost for repaving the south lot will be paid from the GO bond. Addressing the issue with fluctuating temperatures in some of the classrooms, he noted these are monitored constantly and corrected when possible.

Mr. Fisher congratulated Jena Schmidt for being named the District Award winner for School Support Professional of the Year, as well as the State winner. She will be recognized at the IASBO Conference on May 11th. Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Bell will attend the awards dinner with her. Also, Jena Schmidt and Megan Bell are both in the IASBO Professional Leadership School. Mr. Fisher is very proud of both of them. Jena has been a real blessing to have taking care of Human Resources.

Mr. Fisher shared that Janet Maxwell and Mark Schlotterbeck each have lost their fathers recently. His thoughts are with them and their families. Mr. Fisher will attend the recognition of Stacey Tolle accepting the Armstrong Teacher Award at Indiana University this Friday. He is very proud of Stacey. He thanked Jaci Hadsell for nominating her. Mr. Fisher met with Josh Estelle last week. The corporation has a savings in worker's compensation, which we self-insure. Mr. Fisher has been working with Administrator Assistance. A public hearing will be held at the

Middle School to explain House Bill #1028. The corporation has signed on with Iron Gate in Hagerstown to rebrand our website. They will gather opinions from a select group of parents, students, community, teachers, and administrators to formulate our brand. On May 10th Board member will attend the Legislative ISBA Meeting at Willie and Red's. Two elementary guidance counselors have been hired, Bridget Hand, and Lynn Schwarzkoph. He thanked the elementary principals and Mrs. Bergum for doing a great job with the hiring process. One more counselor will be hired. Also on the personnel report are new certified staff members, McKenzie Weaver, Grade 6 at Westwood; and Angela Rogers, Middle School Language Arts. Certified resignations have been received from Aaron Dicken, Eastwood, Grade 4; Tahna Moore, English at NCMS; and Lyndsay Salvador, Grade 1 at Riley. Retirement requests from Susan Hoover, Special Ed at Eastwood; and Diana Slabaugh, High School Art Teacher. From the Technology Department, Ben Burris, Network Engineer, is resigning to take a position at Western Wayne Schools. Mr. Fisher is sad to see him go, but wish him the very best.

Susan Delay, High School English and Social Studies Teacher, shared recent student accomplishments at the Indiana North Optimist District Meeting. Essay winners were sophomores Kaitlin Scott, 2nd place, and Katelyn Goodpaster, 3rd place. Shelby Mills will compete in the oratorical contest on April 29th for a chance to win \$2,500.00 in scholarships.

Mr. Fisher noted \$8,400.00 was raised during the Dance for Riley, held last weekend.

Janet Maxwell noted some of the classrooms are really warm and asked if Parker is in need of repair. Nancy Dickerson noted room temperatures prevented a projector from working in her classroom. Mr. Pheffer noted issues are dealt with as soon as possible. Issues should be reported to the principal, who then inform John McClurg so maintenance can take care of the problem. Issues are dealt with on a ticket system and dealt with on a priority basis. Mr. Fisher noted equipment is older and parts are sometimes difficult to get quickly.

Mrs. Polk noted Red Hot Blues from the choral department had an incredible final performance.

Dustin Chew reported work tickets in the technology department for this month, 290 open, closing 273. For the school year, they have solved 2821 issues.

Kim Williamson was contacted by Corey Bennett, Assistant Plant Manager for Boar's Head. Mr. Bennett is concerned about lower income students going hungry over the weekends, and is now in contact with Little Blessings. Mr. Williamson thanked him for his generosity and involvement with students in the community. Mr. Fisher noted Boar's Head also plans to work with the summer food program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.