



New Castle Community School Corporation

August 8, 2016 Volume 21- Issue 1

The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, August 8, 2016. Those present were: Mrs. Nannett Polk, Mrs. Elizabeth Whitmer, Mr. Jamey Marcum, Dr. Mark Davisson, Ms. Marcy Higham, Mr. Stephen Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. William Pheffer, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Megan Bell, Director of Finance; Mrs. Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; and Mr. Joel Harvey, Attorney with Hayes-Copenhaver- Crider- Harvey.

Others present were Janet Maxwell, Debby Raines, Stefanie Eikenberry, Amy Blake, Jaci Hadsell, Mike Broyles, Patty Broyles, Abbie Willans, Angie Aten, and Matt Aten.

The minutes for the July 11, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Ms. Higham and seconded by Mr. Marcum, as presented.

On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer and seconded by Mr. Marcum, the agenda was unanimously approved, as amended, with Mr. Fisher adding Item A. Recommend Approval of Corrected Non-Certified Compensation Model for 2016-2017, under Section VI. Budget. The correction was to reflect the one dollar hourly rate increase for Aides.

There were no public questions or comments on agenda items.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 55490 through 55699); 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. Marcum and seconded by Mrs. Whitmer, as submitted.

Board members previously received a copy of the HPS Food Service Contracts for 2016-2017. On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer, and seconded by Ms. Higham, this was unanimously approved, as presented. Mr. Fisher stated these are the same companies as last year. Gordon Food Service will take care of food, sanitation, and paper products. Prairie Farms will take care of dairy products.

Board members previously received a copy of the Concessions Contract for 2016-2017. On a motion by Ms. Higham and seconded by Mrs. Whitmer, this was unanimously approved, as presented. Mr. Fisher stated this is the same as last year with the addition of 15% of

concessions to go towards the football field replacement fund each year. This percentage comes out of the High School and does not affect sponsors who work concessions to raise money for their groups. Mrs. Bell stated a donation account has been set up for monies for turf replacement costs in the future. This includes money from Randy Neal, concessions, Band Boosters, High School, Athletic Department, soccer games, contributions, and other venues using the new field.

Mr. Pheffer provided an update on the start of a new school year. Most of the schools have added a new security device called Raptor. Visitors entering the building will show their federal identification. Raptor will search for sexual offenders. He thanked Mr. Gray for the safety grant. Limited Criminal History checks are conducted for people attended field trips or spending time at school. The updates at Neal Field are nearly complete. A new sign will be installed; removal of the large green shed; and some landscaping. Thanks to a \$10,000.00 donation from Boar's Head, a new public address system has been installed. Muncie Music Center did the installation. A dedication ceremony for Neal Field will take place at the first home football game on August 26th. During the October 7th football game, a special ceremony will recognize the Huffman family and their contribution to New Castle. A plaque has been designed to honor the Huffman brothers and will be displayed close to the home seating area. All alumni football players are invited to attend. The Huffman family recently made a visit to the High School and met with Randy Neal. The family is very supportive of the new field. Thanks to Duke Energy, Wilbur Wright Elementary received a new playground. Completed projects include concrete work; handicapped signage; asphalt repairs; plumbing; electrical; and carpentry. A meeting is planned to obtain another 2 million dollar geo bond to repay the Rainy Day Fund for our \$500,000.00 portion of Neal Field. The transportation department is preparing for the State Police Drug Audits and Bus Inspections. Substitute Bus Drivers are needed. Training will be provided and could become full time. Anyone interested should contact CEC or the Transportation Department.

Mr. Fisher provided his monthly Superintendent's report. Board members received a copy on student enrollment which is down 83 students from last count. Sixty two of those is the difference between outgoing seniors and incoming kindergarten students. He explained money received from the Department of Education is determined by student enrollment. Mrs. Bell estimated in May the number of students would be 3239. Actual student count is 3238. Mr. Fisher explained the process of receiving funds from DOE. Mr. Fisher thanked the Maintenance Department, Mr. Pheffer, Mr. Neal, and Boar's Head for their contributions towards the football field. He also thanked Henry County Hospital for their donation which paid for a new score board. The hospital also purchased a John Deere Gator for the Athletic Trainer. Fencing will be installed under the bleachers. This space will provide secure storage. Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Bell met with Josh Estelle earlier this week. There is a 2.9% increase on Insurance. Mr. Fisher noted some school districts use advertising to recruit students. He discussed developing a plan for filling teaching positions that are hard to fill. Mr. Fisher is

pleased with the new teachers hired, some just days before school began. Conversations have taken place with other schools about the possibility of using Skype to share teachers when positions cannot be filled. Bus routes from Sunnyside are going very well, as is the shuttle for Gifted and Talented students.

Added to the agenda was a recommendation to approve the corrected Non-Certified Compensation Model for 2016-2017, which was approved in July. On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer and seconded by Mr. Marcum, this was unanimously approved, as presented. The correction was to reflect the one dollar pay increase for Aides.

Mr. Fisher noted the October School Board meeting has been moved to the third Monday in October. This change is due to Fall Break during the week of October 3rd. The Budget Hearing will be held September 12th with approval on October 17th.

Mr. Fisher recognized certified staff updates. Included on the August Personnel Report are eight (8) new teachers. Heidi Bryant, Wilbur Wright, Grade 1; Rachel Curts, Parker, Grade K; Holly Drummond, NCHS, Biology; Sydney Fleming, Eastwood, Grade 6; Alison Goad, Wilbur Wright, Grade 6; Theresa Habzansky, Eastwood, Grade 3; Sara Marsh, Parker, Grade K; and Lacey Upchurch, NCHS, English and 1:1 Aide. There are five (5) staff changes. Kristi Armstrong, Sunnyside, Grade 6 to Grade 2; Cheri Estelle, Grade 5, Sunnyside to Westwood; Nikka Osborne, Sunnyside Spec. Ed. to Eastwood Resource; Beth Taylor, Wilbur Wright, Grade 5 to Grade 4; and Mica White, Westwood, Grade 6 to Grade 2. All are effective August 1st.

Sunnyside parent, Angie Aten, addressed the Board about her concern with bus stops, changing bus numbers, different drivers, and not having supervision at all stops. Mr. Pheffer stated it is not uncommon for bus numbers to change due to bus issues, or drivers taking given vacation days. He stated everything is being done to try to minimize changes. Supervision will be provided at certain bus stops while students are adjusting.

Mrs. Aten also questioned bus transportation, changing Sunnyside to a Kindergarten Academy, moving students to Eastwood, intentions for Sunnyside in the future, number of teachers hired, and why Sunnyside students were moved this year. Mr. Fisher explained discussion has taken place for two years about utilizing space, classroom sizes, student enrollment, and building structure conditions. A recent study was done by an architectural firm to determine what the best move was for the Corporation and students. Discussion took place to answer her questions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.