



New Castle Community School Corporation



December 12, 2016 Vol. 21~ Issue 5

The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, December 12, 2016. Those present were: Mrs. Nannett Polk, Mr. Jamey Marcum, Dr. Mark Davisson, Ms. Marcy Higham, Mr. Stephen Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. William Pheffer, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director, Mrs. Megan Bell, Director of Finance; and Mr. Joel Harvey, Attorney with Hayes-Copenhaver-Crider-Harvey.

Others present were Amy Blake, Travis Callaway, Patty Broyles, Aimee Flynn, Chris Walker, Chris Lamb, Brittany Anderson, Tara Baker-Carter, Ben Burris, Dustin Chew, Angie Jones and Kim Williamson.

The minutes from the November 14, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mr. Marcum, and seconded by Ms. Higham, as presented.

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

Mr. Fisher presented an engraved plaque of appreciation to Marcy Higham, Mark Davisson and Nan Polk for their time and service with the Board of School Trustees. Mr. Fisher thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

There were no public questions or comments of agenda items.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 56465 through 56678); 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 Ms. Higham, as submitted.

Periodically, our Special Education Department, as directed by the State, is required to contract for services for children through private residential facilities. The Board President and Secretary are required to sign these

agreements unless the Board authorizes others to sign on their behalf. Mr. Fisher requested Board approval for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and/or the Director of Special Education as designees to Sign these agreements. This authorization is required each year. On a motion by Ms. Higham and seconded by Mr. Marcum, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as requested. Ms. Blake noted this is for residential and non-residential treatment, and is required by the state.

On a motion by Ms. Higham and seconded by Mr. Marcum, the School Calendar for 2017-2018 was unanimously approved, as recommended. Board members previously received a copy. Teachers will return August 1st, and students August 2nd. May 25th is the last school day. The calendar is similar to this school year.

Mr. Pheffer made a correction – Last month you approved the purchase of school buses and I was given some incorrect information on the 84 passenger buses, they are 2017 models, not 2018. This does not make a difference to us, we are receiving exactly what we sought in our specifications.

Mr. Pheffer also gave an update on the \$2,000,000 GO Bond. Everything has been completed regarding the bond and the money is now available for our use. John McClurg and I continue to examine the facility needs of our school corporation. Early next year I will be discussing with you about projects we plan to complete.

Mr. Pheffer recommended approval to Deed Property to the City. The City applied for a grant, I believe it was a federal grant, to obtain enough money to pay for most of the cost of a sidewalk which will go from Kovacs Drive at Riley Road, east up to Riley School and then south on South Main Street to the entrance of White Estates. However, the property around Riley Elementary is owned by the school corporation out to the middle of the road and in the green space where the City plans to construct sidewalks. This area is of no value to us and we would like to help the City by deeding the strip of property over to them. Since we will need for Mr. Crider or Mr. Harvey to examine the Deed Transfer, this will cost us approximately \$1,000. We recommend that you approve this Deed Transfer of property to the City, subject to the approval of our counsel.

On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mr. Davisson, it was unanimously approved as recommended to approve the Deed Transfer of property to the City upon approval of our counsel.

Mr. Fisher provided his monthly Superintendent's report. New Castle Career Center received a \$35,000 grant from Workforce Development. Thank you Chris Lamb for taking care of getting this grant.

Mr. Fisher spoke about the Strategic Planning Session on November 19th and continued on December 8th. I would like to thank everyone who worked on the Strategic Planning Committee Sessions. Two things I was really happy with is the number of all the positives we talked about and the communication. People working together that may not even know each other. Roberta Jackson led us through this process. We completed our vision and mission statements, set goals and ways to achieve these goals. This is an ongoing process. He thanked Roberta Jackson for what she has done for us.

Mr. Fisher provided information about a finance meeting we had, that Bo, Sherri, myself and Nan were a part of. We met with Jane Hernandon with Ice Miller and Matt Schumaker with City Securities, we wanted to find out, can we move forward with the Middle School project, can we get the money, how much money can we get, what would be our timeline and what would be the process? We did establish a timeline that we probably will not stick to. We are going to take our time and do this right. Jane has given us advice, we will probably start with interviewing architects. I want to make sure the architects will meet with our Community Committee. We have several million dollars we can work with without raising the tax rate due to the High School Bond falling off. We need to get a definite cost. The first drawings we had did not include anything for the Music Department. If we are going to be a true Middle School those areas need to be looked at. Gymnasium - yes, no we need to look at that and see the need for that. Do we need a construction manager? We are moving forward cautiously. We will be organizing a Community Committee Group of 12 – 15 people.

Mr. Fisher took this time to wish everyone Happy Holidays and to thank his staff for all they do.

Mrs. Polk thanked Mr. Fisher for continuing with the NCMS project and for inviting her to the meeting with Ice Miller and City Securities.

On a motion by Ms. Higham and seconded by Mr. Marcum, the recommendation for approval of Resolution to Transfer Cash Balance to the Rainy Day Fund /Transportation was unanimously approved, as recommended. Board members previously received a copy.

On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Ms. Higham, the recommendation for approval of Resolution to Transfer Cash Balance to the Rainy Day Fund /Donation Fund was unanimously approved, as recommended. Board members previously received a copy.

On a motion by Mr. Davisson and seconded by Ms. Higham, the recommendation for approval of the Compensation Committee Recommendation.

Mr. Fisher thanked everyone on the Compensation Committee for the time they spent working on this. This is just finalizing the first step. The next step will be to dig deeper into other groups. This will never be a finished project.

Dustin Chew – Director of Technology commented that technology received 163 tickets, 108 for 1 to 1 student devices and have closed all but 22 of those tickets in which they are waiting for parts.

Patty Broyles thanked the Board and would like to bring to your attention that Steven Vitatoe has helped the Park Department out and she would like to thank him and New Castle Career Center for all that they do for our community.

Mr. Fisher recognized Travis Callaway and Kim Williamson in the audience this evening that will be sworn in in January. We will be reorganizing our Board in January. Bob Hobbs will also be retiring at the end of this year. Chris Lamb will be replacing him. We wish Bob the very best of luck in his retirement.

Mrs. Polk committed on ISTEP scores and A-F report card, every school improved at least one letter grade. Thank you to everyone for everything they do.

Travis Callaway spoke about how excited he was about the Community Committee and the planning for NCMS. He is concerned that people will look at the project as a liability and not an investment and thinks the committee will help people understand the investment. Thanks for continuing the NCMS project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM