



New Castle Community

JULY 10, 2017
VOLUME 21 ~ ISSUE 12

The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, July 10, 2017. Those present were: Mrs. Elizabeth Whitmer, Mrs. Nannett Polk, Mr. Jamey Marcum, Mr. Travis Callaway, Mr. Kim Williamson, Mr. Stephen Welsh, Interim Superintendent; Mr. William Pheffer, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; and Dr. Greg Crider, Corporation Attorney.

Others present were Justin Koby, Dee Orick, Tiffany Youngquest, David Youngquest, Chris Lamb, Rodney Schmidt, Jena Schmidt, Dustin Chew, Travis Weik, and Chris Walker.

The minutes from the June 7, 2017 and June 12, 2017 meetings were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mr. Callaway and seconded by Mr. Marcum, as presented.

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

There were no public questions or comments on agenda items.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 58043 through 58251); 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 Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Marcum, as submitted.

Board members previously received a copy of the Textbook Rental and Fee Justification. In Mrs. Bell's absence, Mr. Pheffer provided a brief explanation. Increases made are due to the adoption of a new Science textbook. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mr. Callaway, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.



Board members previously received a copy of the Elementary Handbook. Mrs. Bergum explained the biggest change is the attendance policy. Several meetings were held last year with Administrators, Department of Child Services, and the Prosecuting Attorney. She explained State attendance requirements; gaps in education; and dealing with issues on a case-by-case basis. A brief discussion was held. It was noted Social Workers and Guidance Counselors provide lessons on sexual harassment in the classroom. Reporting can be done anonymously. The attendance policy will be revisited in a year. Mr. Pheffer and Mrs. Bergum answered questions on bullying; gang activity; alternative meals; teacher training; and walking boundaries. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mrs. Polk, the recommended Elementary Handbook was unanimously approved, as presented.

Mrs. Polk noted there will be immunizations at the Back to School Festival. Dee Orick is on that committee and is planning to include this information on their One Call announcement.

Mr. Marcum previously suggested the CEC building install a security system. Board members received a copy of a proposal from Sonitrol of Muncie for the installation of cameras and security system at CEC. Mr. Pheffer explained the system is different than the schools have, in that each person will have a card to swipe to enter and leave, which also identifies who comes and goes. The cost for installation is \$5,985 with a monthly monitor fee of \$119, which includes comprehensive parts, labor, and service support. Also included is the cost to purchase and install 12 cameras for the outside of the building and the cost for the server. The total price for this project is \$10,114.23 plus the \$119 monthly fee. Funds are available in the Safety Grant, General Fund and GO Bond to cover the costs. Employee files are stored at CEC in locked files. It was noted the security camera at Riley has been vandalized twice, and individuals were caught drinking beer on the roof at Riley. Sunnyside had vandalism when someone tried to steal copper from the compressor on the roof, and windows were damaged by rocks. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mr. Williamson, the recommendation to accept the security system proposal from Sonitrol for the CEC building was unanimously approved, as presented.

Board members previously received a copy of the conflict of interest statement for Interim Superintendent, Stephen K. Welsh. This is required when a public servant who has monetary interest in or derives a profit from a contract or purchase connected with an action by the governmental entity served by the public servant commits conflict of interest. Mr. Welsh explained he has a consultant position with Education Furniture on a limited basis, who is also a vendor of New Castle Schools. On a motion by

Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Marcum, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Mr. Pheffer provided an update from Transportation and Maintenance Departments. Projects being completed using the GO Bond money include new air conditioning at Riley and Westwood in the kitchen area; carpet removed in the main hallways at the High School and replaced with gray and green accented tile; and a partial roof replacement at Sunnyside. The Department of Civil Rights informed us the door at the Athletic Department handicapped entrance was not wide enough for a wheel chair to comfortably go through. A new wider door has been installed. Work is being done at the Middle School Pool. This includes a new system to deliver chlorine to the pool; resurfacing the pool deck and bleacher area in dark green and black textured poured flooring; and cleaning, painting and refilling the pool. New flooring has been installed in the men's and women's locker rooms at the High School; flooding issues at the High School has been addressed; replaced restroom partitions at Riley and Westwood; installed permanent walls at Westwood; and a new Athletic Director's room at the Middle School on the west end which includes a door to access the pool and gym. The roof project at Eastwood is completed; hardware project on the front door at Parker; new window at Principal's office at Riley; marks on the Field House floor cleaned and sealed; and the Field House south lot paving project is two thirds of the way done with the base coat. The paving cost allows for the alternate paving areas to be included. Mr. Pheffer noted \$300,000 remains in the GO Bond. He will look into replacing the tile inside the new Athletic Department entrance. Other improvements still being considered are hand rails at the Field House and making much needed improvements to the weight room.

Mr. Pheffer noted some of our school buses are temporarily being parked at the water treatment plant during the road improvement projects being done around town, which includes digging through the bus parking lot.

Board members previously received a copy of the Resolution to Transfer Appropriations. Mr. Pheffer explained this is done to transfer items from one account to another. On a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Callaway, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Board members previously received a copy of the Budget Calendar. Mr. Pheffer explained dates are provided by the State and Mrs. Bell chooses what best fits the Corporation each year. Board action is not required.

During the June meeting, retiring teacher Art Edinger was presented with the Shapiro Award for having 40 years of service with New Castle Schools. This annual recognition goes to the retiring teacher with the most years of service. Afterwards, it was discovered we have a tie for this award. Larry Koby, Director of Technology, retired in October of 2016, also having 40 years of service. Board members previously received the corrected retirement resolution for Mr. Koby, who now resides in Florida. President Whitmer presented the engraved plaque to Mr. Koby's son, Justin Koby, who was in attendance. Mrs. Whitmer appreciates Mr. Koby for his brilliance to the Corporation and the lives he has touched. Sincere congratulations to Mr. Koby.

Board members previously received a copy of the non-certified salary schedule changes from the Compensation Committee. Jena Schmidt, Human Resource Specialist, explained the committee began last July meeting each month reviewing the salary scale. Major discrepancies and issues were corrected. Mrs. Schmidt and Leah Melton, Payroll Specialist, continue to meet with Directors, Administrators, and Principals about job descriptions for their clerical staff. The salary schedule will continue to change and update as monthly meetings reveal adjustments needed to every job description. The goal is to make sure all employees are compensated appropriately. Discussion was held on tiers; enrollment; budget; and posting vacancies. Mrs. Schmidt will provide an update in January. On a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Marcum, the recommended non-certified salary schedule was unanimously approved, as presented.

Dee Orick reported the Summer Meal Program served 3616 student lunches in the month of June at five different sites. The YMCA was added this year. Breakfast was served to almost 500 students at two sites. The program is going very well and continues until school starts.

Chris Lamb, Career Center Director, reported they received a \$10,000 grant from REMC, and are partnering with Habitat for Humanity for the next building trades house, located in Oak Grove at the corner of Irvine and K Avenue. The project begins in August.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.