



New Castle Community School Corporation

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The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, March 13, 2017. Those present were: 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 Mr. Joel Harvey, Attorney with Hayes, Copenhagen, Crider, and Harvey.

Others present were Amy Blake, Andrea Powers, Brandon Powers, Cambree Powers, Steve Burchett, Trisha Burchett, Aimee Flynn, Dustin Chew, Tony Personett, Angie Jones, Chris Lamb, John Lee, Stacey Tolle, Jaci Hadsell, Jason Wickes, Faith Wickes, Charity Wickes, Rachel Platts, Steven Denney, Wendy Flynn, Dorinda Mills, Travis Weik, Nancy Dickerson, Chris Walker, Ty Crawford, Brynlee Powers, Cody Burchett, Sophie Sutton, Noah Jones, Amara Platts, Elliot Callaway, Lydia Harvey, Sam Underhill, Leo Underhill, and Mary Jane Dye.

The minutes from the February 13 and February 27, 2017 meetings were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Williamson, as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Callaway and seconded by Mrs. Polk, the agenda was unanimously approved, as presented.

There were no questions or comments on agenda items.

Third grade students from Parker Elementary Robotics Team gave a presentation. One team explained the Dex IQ robots. The second team explained the Lego 2.0 robots that operate from a computer program. Also on display in the entry way were posters the students created on the i-Ready Math and Lexia programs. Teams met after school and built their robots from kits. Competitions are on Saturdays. To become part of the Robotics Team, students had to write a letter to be selected. Both teams gave demonstrations. Students in attendance were Elliot Callaway, Cody Burchett, Charity Wickes, Sophie Sutton, Noah Jones, Amara Platts, Brynlee Powers, and Ty Crawford. Alyssa Grubbs was unable to attend. Their teachers are Nancy Dickerson and Kelly Harvey. Congratulations to the Robotics Team.

Students who participated on the Wilbur Wright Math Bowl finished second in a tie-breaker for first place in the State, and finished first place in the Region. Three of the fifteen team members in grades 4 through 6 were in attendance, Lydia Harvey, Sam Underhill, and Leo Underhill. The team is coached by Mary Jane Dye. The students meet twice a week after school. This year's Math Bowl theme was statistics and probability. Students also studied with college students. The team wore shirts they designed. Congratulations to the Math Bowl Team.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 57113 through 57334); 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. Callaway, as submitted.

Board members previously received copies of Board Policy Volume 28, Number 2; and Volume 29, Number 1. This is the first reading for both policies. Mr. Fisher will recommend approval during the April Board meeting. The legal firm Neola provides updates when there are changes in the law.

Board members previously received a copy of an approval request for non-standard courses and curriculum waiver for the New Castle Career Center. Mr. Lamb explained Melody Warner teaches Veterinary Science which now requires a non-standard course waiver. On a motion by Mr. Callaway and seconded by Mrs. Polk, this was unanimously approved, as presented. Mr. Marcum congratulated Mr. Lamb on a great week for the Technology Honor Society.

Mr. Pheffer explained funding available for repairs needed throughout the corporation. Those are capital funds and GO Bonds. Projects estimated to cost under \$50,000.00 do not require Board approval. Projects estimated to cost between \$50,000.00 to \$150,000.00, we invite three companies to provide a quote, which are then presented to the Board. Projects estimated to cost more than \$150,000.00, we advertise the projects then go through a bid process. Projects estimated to cost \$200,000.00 or more requires an architect to be involved. Board members previously received quotes for three separate projects that are currently needed. The first is to replace the cooling tower at Parker. The recommendation is Building Temperature Solutions of Ft. Wayne at \$112,614.00. On a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Williamson, this was unanimously approved. The second project is to repair the cooling tower at the High School. The recommendation is Trane of Indianapolis at \$58,500.00. On a motion by Mr. Callaway and seconded by Mrs. Polk, this was unanimously approved. The third project is to rebuild the chiller at the High School. The recommendation is Building Temperature Solutions of Ft Wayne \$94,087.00. On a motion by Mr. Williamson and seconded by Mrs. Polk, this was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pheffer listed other projects. Those include a partial roof replacement at Eastwood; replace door hardware at Parker; exterior work around roof area at Sunnyside; replace glass in office area at Riley; replace restroom dividers at Westwood and Riley; install a new door at the Middle School for pool access; replace decking around the pool; install permanent classroom walls at Westwood; and replace air conditioning units above the cafeterias at Riley and Westwood. The estimated cost for all these projects is \$200,000.00. Mr. Pheffer stated completion is expected this fall.

Mr. Pheffer discussed with the Board the possibility of re-paving the south parking lot at the High School. This would not include the Vocational School, Senior Class, or Teacher lots. The area is approximately 26,000 square feet. It was originally installed around 1975. Lots of patching has been done. He explained the replacement process and safety concerns. The cost could be in excess of half a million dollars. Money for the project is available. Mr. Pheffer asked for opinions from the Board. A discussion was held as he answered questions. The south lot is used for students, band, and hosting sports events at the new football field and the field house. Since there were no objections from the Board, Mr. Pheffer will collect bids for this project.

Mr. Pheffer met with Administrative Assistants to determine a price for updates needed at the Middle School. He has also attended a conference on a referendum. The plan is to wait until the General Assembly is done in April to see if House Bill #1043 is passed, which would give us ability to extend a GO Bond out to 10 million dollars. If that happens, we could finance the project that way

rather than a local referendum. We will continue to analyze to see if moving the 6th Grade is the right thing to do. A brief discussion was held on funding options. Mrs. Bell noted a referendum would increase everyone's taxes. Concrete repairs needed at the Career Center entrance will be taken care of.

Mr. Fisher recognized Middle School Math Teacher, Stacy Tolle. She received the Indiana University School of Education Armstrong Teaching Award. Mrs. Tolle will attend a celebration at IU in Bloomington on April 21st, serve as an Armstrong Teacher for a year, and participate during orientation activities in September with future educators. Mrs. Tolle is a graduate of IU and feels honored. She stated there are many deserving teachers in the corporation she is lucky to work with. She is excited and appreciates the nomination made by Mrs. Hadsell. Congratulations to Mrs. Tolle.

Mr. Fisher recognized all extra-curricular activities had a great winter. He has met with Administrative Assistants and is confident with their ability to help. During the April meeting he will announce three new counselors for elementary. The secondary counselors have traveled to Orlando, Portland and San Diego. They have gathered a lot of information. The expenses were covered through a \$30,000 grant. The annual performance report will be published in the newspaper around March 15th. Kindergarten Round-Up will be April 12th. Megan will submit the ADM enrollment estimate to the state.

Mrs. Polk asked about other news from the legislature. Mr. Fisher explained possible changes in state funding, waiting on decisions. She thanked the administrators and Mrs. Bell for doing a great job managing the budget.

Dustin Chew, Director of Technology, reported his department has been busy preparing for I-STEP. Kevin Coffey enjoyed setting up devices at Parker for the robotics team. His staff opened 349 tickets last month and closed 354. Total tickets for the school year is 2483 open and 2548 closed. Mr. Chew is looking at new solutions to bring before the Board for classroom technology. He noted his staff is a great group to work with.

Mr. Marcum thanked Chris Walker, Shane Osting, and everyone who worked at the Field House for being a great host during the basketball sectional, wrestling, and dance contests.

John Lee questioned the Board about the educational benefit of moving 6th graders to the Middle School building and having to borrow money to improve the building. Mr. Marcum explained the building needs repairs. Mr. Callaway explained as a parent and as a Board member, it has been agreed to form a committee of parents, educators and local folks in the community to work through it and decide if it makes sense. Mr. Marcum noted there will be no changes until a decision can be made on building improvements, if financing is available, and committees will be formed. He encouraged Mr. Lee to attend the public meetings and read information in the paper as well as the corporation website. Mr. Callaway noted the importance of the committee to have everyone in the community involved.

Mr. Lee is also concerned about the elementary situation and moving students from Sunnyside to Eastwood. He talked about current building enrollment and suggests looking at redistricting. Mr. Marcum noted the public meeting held at Sunnyside to discuss building conditions following the building evaluation. Discussion was held on age of the elementary buildings, decreasing enrollment and students choosing to move to other school districts. Mr. Marcum invited Mr. Lee to serve when committees are formed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

The April meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month due to Spring Break. The next regular meeting will be April 17th.