



# New Castle Community School Corporation

MAY 8, 2017  
VOLUME 21 ~ ISSUE 10

The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, May 8, 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 Joel Harvey, Attorney with Hayes-Copenhaver-Crider-Harvey.

Others present were Nancy Dickerson, Susan Delay, Stefanie Eikenberry, Debby Raines, Nici Shelton, Stephanie Renfro, Hannah Warner, Dee Orick, Jaci Hadsell, Tiffany Youngquist, David Youngquist, Amy Blake, Travis Weik, Aimee Flynn, Kirk Amman, Chris Lamb, Dustin Chew, Chris Walker, and John Lee.

Vice President Marcum presided over the meeting.

The minutes from the April 17, 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. Williamson and seconded by Mrs. Polk, 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. 57570 through 57757); 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. Mr. Lamb stated the field trip request to Nashville, TN was for a student in the Health Occupations class competing at the National Conference.

Chris Lamb, Director of New Castle Career Center, provided an update. Board members received a print-out. Many good things are happening at the Career Center which offers eighteen programs: advanced manufacturing, advanced business management, broadcasting, building trades, computer operations, cosmetology, culinary arts, dental career, education professions, early childhood education, EMT/public safety, facility maintenance, graphic design, health careers, precision machining, marketing, pre-engineering, veterinary science, and welding technology. Students earn licensure diplomas and certifications and are able to earn \$10.00 to \$12.00 per hour working as a High School Senior. Mr. Lamb explained the variety of degrees available through the program; Work Keys Testing and Work Ready Initiative; and college credits through Ivy Tech. Student enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year was 540. Next year 580 plus students are expected. A Finance Academy will be offered starting with the 2018-2019 school year. Students from eight schools make up the population; New Castle, Blue River, Eastern Hancock, Hagerstown, Knightstown, Shenandoah, Tri High, and Union. The main campus is New Castle, with classes also held at Hagerstown, Knightstown, Tri High, and Raintree Education Center. This year 17 students will earn an Ivy Tech diploma as well as their High School diploma. Those students are invited to attend commencement ceremonies at Ball State University. Mr. Lamb explained cost savings to students by attending classes and earning college credits. The Governors Work Ethic Certificate Program is designed to promote industry, productivity, discipline, and attendance for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> in Henry County. The advisory committee currently consists of 12 businesses with plans to grow to 80 businesses. Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. is the Honor Program at the field house to recognize the students. Everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Lamb thanked the Board and Administration for their support. Nici Shelton, Parker Grade 5 Teacher, invited Mr. Lamb to visit her class to talk with 5<sup>th</sup> graders about the program.

Board members previously received copies of updates made to the Middle School and High School Student Handbooks for 2017-2018. On a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Williamson, these were unanimously approved, as recommended. Mr. Amman explained the changes made to the Hot Room Program during lunch time at the Middle School. It is now called Student Resource Time, which is a voluntary program for students to work with a counselor to help with grades. Dee Orick explained the process of collecting outstanding lunch account balances. Currently there is \$7,000.00 outstanding. Parents receive letters and phone calls in the attempt to work with them to avoid being turned into collections. Lunch prices will remain the same for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications are always available for the free lunch program. Alternate meals are supposed to be offered to students who cannot pay but is avoided to prevent embarrassment to the student.

E-Rate is a program which provides discounts and reimbursements to assist schools and libraries to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. The Technology Department is requesting permission to apply for funding for various services. Board members previously received copies of responses to their requests. On a motion by Mrs. Polk and seconded by Mr. Williamson, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Mr. Pheffer explained the process for opening quotes held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a re-roof project. Board members previously received a copy of quotes received to re-roof part of Eastwood Elementary. From the two quotes received, Simmons Roof Maintenance in Gaston, Indiana had the lowest at a cost of \$96,000.00. On a motion by Mr. Callaway and seconded by Mrs. Polk, this was unanimously approved, as recommended.

Mr. Pheffer reported many other projects are being done throughout the corporation. The High School south parking lot project has been examined. It will be advertised for bidding. A legal ad will be placed in the newspaper on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> per state statute. Opening bids will be 10 A.M. on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Recommendation for a bid approval will be held during the June 12<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting. The work will begin mid-July and continue for three weeks into August. Included with the south lot bid will be an alternate bid for the vocational lot. The road from Trojan Lane to behind the Middle School will also be paved. The steps at the vocational school will be repaired using an acrylic packing process.

On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer and seconded by Mrs. Polk, the stipend for a computer position at Wilbur Wright was unanimously approved, as recommended. Kristen Owens will receive \$1,000.00 for the 2016-2017 school year to be paid out of Title I Funds.

Susan Delay, High School teacher, provided an update on a student who attended the Indiana North District Optimist International Contest for Essay and Oratorical last month. Shelby Mills, representing a New Castle Optimist Club, won the district competition and a scholarship of \$2500.00. She was also chosen as over-all district winner and will be representing Indiana North District at Nationals on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis, Missouri for a chance to win \$15,000.00 in scholarships. The Indiana North District Optimist Club will cover her travel expenses.

Jaci Hadsell, Middle School Principal, announced the Academic Team at the Middle School won their division in the district contests. Science placed 1<sup>st</sup>; Math placed 2<sup>nd</sup>; Social Studies placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and English placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Science also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state.

Chris Walker announced commencement will be June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 P.M. in the field house. A total of 251 students will participate in the ceremonies. This year's Senior Class is a very unique group of graduates who will attend colleges from California, New York, Austin, the Deep South, and multiple foreign countries. Indiana University for last several years has been the top destination for New Castle graduates. For the first time since 2010, Ball State University will enroll the biggest portion of New Castle graduates, with I.U. as a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. Graduates will also attend Military Academies, Merchant Marines, U.S. Military, Harvard, Penn, and the Alabama Crimson Tide. This group is also special because 90 percent of students who started as a freshman will graduate together. The Senior Top-Ten Lunch is this Friday. Students will recognize the teachers from four different schools for being their most inspirational teacher. This class is also the first group of students who will begin college as juniors this fall. The High School will officially begin the application process to be an Early College High School this summer and will have Associate Degrees to hand out with the class of 2018 for the first time. Mr. Walker will provide the calendar of Senior class activities to board members.

Mr. Marcum requested for a moment of silence to honor the Hiner family of Knightstown, who lost a son this week in an auto accident.

Nici Shelton thanked Liz Whitmer for attending and supporting the Eastwood Carnival this past weekend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41P.M.