



New Castle Community School Corporation



NOVEMBER 14, 2016 VOL. 21~ ISSUE 4



The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, November 14, 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; and Dr. Greg Crider, Corporation Attorney.

Others present were Amy Blake, Travis Weik, Janet Maxwell, Nancy Dickerson, David Pryor, Chris Morris, Kristy Gerth, Aimee Flynn, Stefanie Eikenberry, Debby Raines, Stephanie Criswell, Nici Shelton, Jennifer McGowan, Theresa Habzansky, Stephanie Renfro, Annette Goggin, Mary Kalk, Anna Grieser, Melanie Hufford, Travis Callaway, Kim Williamson, Brittany Anderson, Dustin Chew, Jaci Hadsell, Laura Hart, Angie Jones, Trent Brewster and Wyatt Brewster.

The minutes from the October 17, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mrs. Whitmer, 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.

Janet Maxwell questioned Item A. under Budget: To Recommend Approval of 2017 Budget (Line 2) Resolution. Mrs. Bell explained this is a yearly item that allows her to adjust the budget to reflect actual spending rather than the projected amount. Mrs. Maxwell asked about Item A. under Superintendent's Report: To Recommend Approval of Administrative Contracts. Mr. Fisher explained administrator's contracts are being extended through the 2017-2018 school year.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 56252 through 56464); 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.

On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer and seconded by Mr. Marcum, the Contract with Centerstone of Indiana was unanimously approved, as recommended. This is the third year with Centerstone. Board members previously received a copy. Centerstone provides social services and related services to students of NCCSC and their families who qualify for the program.

On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer and seconded by Mr. Marcum, the Expenditure Category Goals (HEA 1006) was unanimously approved, as recommended. Mr. Fisher explained this is required by the state which says we elect not to incur additional tax rates resulting from the renovation or construction of any school facility, or add additional administrative or clerical staff to payroll.

Dave Pryor, Energy Specialist, provided a power point presentation on the Energy Savings Program. Board member previously received print outs. The program began in September of 2010. The information represents 6 years and 1 month. The gross savings is \$4,849,410.00. In the last two years, the corporation has cut the total energy usage in half. Mr. Pryor explained temperature variations in different buildings; natural gas prices are lower; inefficient equipment being replaced; and future renovations. Program expenses include \$888,000.00 paid to Cinergestic, which we no longer pay. There is also an environmental benefit to energy savings as it reduces the carbon footprint. Our savings is equivalent to taking over seven thousand cars off the roads for a year. We have reduced by 58% the amount of natural gas we use. Heat and air conditioning are turned off at the end of the school day, except in areas where activities are scheduled. Mechanical operations are more efficient. He thanked administrators for their support, and teachers, custodians, and staff members for doing their part. He appreciates the great communication he has with Dave McClure, HVAC Tech, and John McClurg, Director of Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Fisher thanked Mr. Pryor for doing a tremendous job.

Mr. Pheffer requested board approval for the purchase of three new buses. Board members previously received pricing information. Midwest Transit had the lowest bid at \$316,037.00. On a motion by Ms. Higham, and seconded by Mrs. Whitmer, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented. The purchase includes two 2018 model – 84 passenger International Rear Engine Buses, and one 2018 model – 66 passenger Wheelchair Lift Bus. Mr. Pheffer noted this purchase was made using the State Bus Purchasing Program. The use of seatbelts on school buses has been considered. Buses traded in bring between \$2,700.00 and \$5,000.00. Trade in buses are often redone and sold to churches or Central American nations. He noted the buses are purchased through the Bus

Replacement Plan Fund.

Mr. Fisher requested board approval for Administrator Contracts for 2017-2018. On a motion by Mr. Davisson, and seconded by Mr. Marcum, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented.

Mr. Fisher shared information from meetings being held regarding the possible move of 6th grade to the Middle School. One main concern is funds to make building improvements. He sent an email to the entire staff and a One-Call to the community to keep everyone informed. He explained funding options and the importance of borrowing money to keep the current tax rate. The high school debt is being paid off. He suggests the Board President attend the meetings to determine if money can be borrowed then hire an architect to determine costs. Mr. Fisher will provide an update during the regular December board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Mrs. Whitmer, the 2017 Budget (Line 2) Resolution was unanimously approved, as recommended. Board members previously received a copy. This resolution gives Mrs. Bell authority to lower appropriation balances where needed to more accurately reflect necessary expenditures from July 1 through December 31, 2016.

Travis Weik from The Courier Times asked if redistricting is being considered along with moving 6th graders to the Middle School. Mr. Fisher said the focus is on funding. Redistricting is not being considered at this time.

Dustin Chew, Director of Technology, reported so far this year there have been 1,167 tickets opened and 1,205 closed. Some requests were broken screens, a computer virus, or had to wait on ordered parts.

Janet Maxwell asked Mr. Pryor if the 7th grade building was included in the base year of the Energy Program. He said it was closed when he began the program, and was not part of it.

Janet Maxwell asked when school grades will be received. Mr. Fisher expects them possibly this week.

Travis Callaway asked if the actual dollar amount of savings in closing Sunnyside Elementary has yet been determined. Mr. Fisher answered no. Also, when committing to a dollar amount in renovations for the middle school, if moving 6th grade is part of that. Mr.

Fisher answered yes. Mrs. Bell noted savings has already been realized in moving grades 4th, 5th and 6th to Eastwood Elementary. Mr. Pheffer added the reason for a loan has to be specified when purchasing bonds but are written to cover other costs. A discussion was held regarding the process of closing a building.

Nancy Dickerson noted the benefit of bringing the symphony orchestra back to New Castle, and how it may attract Asian and European investors and businesses. Mrs. Polk stated this is something the architects will look at while determining costs to renovate the middle school.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.