

New Castle Community School Corporation



September 12, 2016 Volume 21- Issue 2

The New Castle Community School Board met in regular session at the Community Education Center on Monday, September 12, 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; Mrs. Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; and Dr. Greg Crider, Corporation Attorney.

Others present were Janet Maxwell, Travis Weik, Caitlin Burkus, Aimee Flynn, Dustin Chew, Ben Burris, John Doty, Jaci Hadsell, April Havens, Kirk Amman, Vicki Madison, Jennifer Davis, Jean Ann Walls, Melinda Broyles, Annette Goggin, and Matt Schumaker.

The minutes from the August 8, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved by the Board on a motion by Mrs. Whitmer, and seconded by Mr. Marcum, as presented.

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

Janet Maxwell asked if the agenda items under Budget, regarding public hearings, would be explained in detail. Mr. Fisher stated the information was published in The Courier Times. Mrs. Bell stated it is also available on-line.

The Travel Report; Monthly Personnel Report; Bill List (Nos. 55700 through 56001); 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 Mrs. Whitmer, as submitted.

Mr. Fisher provided an update on student enrollment. Board members received a chart showing last year's student count compared to last Friday's student count. We are down 80 students from last year. He explained how state funding is based on the total number of students. Mr. Fisher has met with the Teacher's Association and a tentative agreement has been reached. A special meeting will be scheduled for the Board to approve the new contract. The deadline to ratify the contract is September 30th. He has received many compliments about Neal Field. He noted other school corporations are searching for auto dealers and other sponsors to be able to cover the cost of a turf field. We are very fortunate to have Randy Neal, Boar's Head, and Henry County Hospital for their generous donations. On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, Mrs. Bergum will be working on updates to the 8-Step Program. Mr. Fisher will send the final version of the teacher's agreement to Board members, prior to the meeting. The Administrators contracts will be the same as the Teacher's contracts.

Mr. Pheffer gave an update from Maintenance and Transportation departments. The hot summer weather had an impact on cooling units which have been repaired as needed. Neal Field is expected to be completed in a couple of weeks. The lettering placed on the East side of the press box was unsatisfactory and

will be re-done. Landscaping is being completed and the green shed removed. The installation of the Huffman Brother's recognition display will be done prior to a ceremony in October. During Labor Day, a water leak at the High School caused damage to five classrooms. The Maintenance department has addressed over 200 work orders in the past month. The Transportation department, headed by Randy Egan, prepared buses that are twelve years and older for the annual State Police inspection. All passed. Random drug and alcohol testing conducted by the state were also conducted. All bus drivers passed. The corporation is preparing to secure up to 2 million dollars for general obligation bonds. The anticipated soft costs related to financing comes to \$58,000.00. Matt Schumaker of City Securities was in attendance to answer questions. The breakdown for soft costs is \$18,500 to Ice Miller for legal assistance; \$15,000 to City Securities for financial assistance; \$5000 to Dr. Crider's office for legal services; \$7500 is required for the Bank of New York ; and possibly \$12,000 for Standard and Poor's. Meetings have been held to discuss moving Grade 6 to the Middle School; returning Grade K to home schools; and possibility closing Sunnyside. Changes to be determined include bus routes; building structure; curriculum; personnel movement; and extra-curricular activities. Involved with those decisions will be Board members, Teachers, Administrators, and the Public. Also, Mr. Pheffer explained building sensors and security devices currently in place. Neal Field has activity every day except Sunday, and the first part of the donation from Mr. Neal has been received. This will be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund in a few months. Monies from high school will be paid in Spring of each year. Concessions, booster clubs, Band, Athletic department, and savings from not renting soccer fields all contribute to the replacement cost of the turf. Dr. Crider noted the first payment from Randy Neal was received within two hours of placing a phone call. He also noted how nice the new field is for our athletes. Discussion was held on benefit of this new facility and current agreement with Mr. Neal.

Mr. Fisher noted an audit has been completed at the High School. Mr. Fisher is very happy with findings and there are no issues.

In a couple of months, the Board will be asked to officially approve the changes at Sunnyside and the Middle School. Discussions have taken place to prepare in the case this move is approved. Many decisions and changes have to be considered before the plan can be presented to the Board.

The Public Hearing on the Bus Replacement Plan was held. Board members previously received a copy of the plan. Information was also advertised in The Courier Times, and on-line. Public comments were allowed at this time. There were none. The adoption of the Bus Replacement Plan will be held during the regular October meeting.

The Public Hearing on the Capital Projects Fund Plan was held. Board members previously received a copy of the plan. Information was also advertised in The Courier Times, and on-line. Public comments were allowed at this time. There were none. The adoption of the Capital Projects Fund Plan will be held during the regular October meeting.

The Public Hearing on the Corporation Budget was held. Board members previously received a copy of the plan. Information was also advertised in The Courier Times, and on-line. Public comments were allowed at this time. There were none. The adoption of the Corporation Budget will be held during the regular October meeting.

Board members previously received copies of the Preliminary Bond Resolution. This gives the approval to move forward with the 2 million dollar bond. On a motion by Mr. Marcum and seconded by Ms. Higham, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented. Matt Schumaker explained this is exactly like last year, has no increase to tax rates, has a three year pay back, with low interest rates. The bonds will sell in November.

Board members previously received copies of a Letter of Engagement from Ice Miller, Bond Attorneys. On a motion by Mrs. Whitmer and seconded by Mr. Marcum, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented. They will take care of legal issues with the bond.

Board members previously received copies of a Letter of Engagement from City Securities. On a motion by Ms. Higham and seconded by Mrs. Whitmer, this recommendation was unanimously approved, as presented. They will handle the financial issues with the bonds.

Mr. Fisher recognized certified staff updates. Included on the September Personnel Report three retirements and one transfer. Effective October 18, 2016, is the retirement of Larry Koby, Director of Technology. A recommendation to replace him will take place during the October School Board meeting. Sara Wilson, Science Teacher at the Middle School; will retire at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Jaci Hadsell, Principal at the Middle School is retiring at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Fisher spoke of his years working with Jaci. She always did what is best for the school system and the students. She has a bachelor's and master's degree from Ball State University, originally licensed in music then added counseling. She received her administrative license in 2005, worked one year in Music at Lebanon, worked ten years as Counselor at Nettle Creek. During the 1981-82 school year, she was in Music at the Middle School, prior to Nettle Creek. She became Assistant Principal from 1999 – 2007, then moved to Principal in January of 2008. Her total experience is 27.5 years, 25 of those years at New Castle. Mr. Fisher values the friendship he has with Jaci. He thanked her for making him a better person. Kirk Amman will transfer from Assistant Principal to Principal at the Middle School, effective July 1, 2017.

There were no public questions or comments.

Mr. Fisher noted the October School Board Meeting will be held on the third Monday, October 17th, due to Fall Break.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.