

The New Castle Community School Board of Trustees met in the Boardroom at the Community Education Center located at 322 Elliott Avenue, New Castle, IN 47362 on February 11, 2019.

Board Members Present: Cory Bennett, Member; Jennifer Blackford, Member; Travis Callaway, President; Nannett Polk, Secretary; Kim Williamson, Vice President

Central Office Administrators Present: Dr. Matthew Shoemaker, Superintendent; Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Greg Crider, Attorney; Megan Bell, Director of Finance; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Jena Schmidt, HR Specialist

Also Present: Approximately 16 community members

- I. Call to Order by Vice President Travis Callaway at 7:00 p.m.
 - A. Moment of Silence was observed by all in attendance.
 - B. Roll Call - All members were present.
 - C. Approval of Finance Committee and Regular Session Minutes: January 14, 2019 – Nannett Polk moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - D. Approval of Minutes: January 24, 2019 - Cory Bennett moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - E. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated there were no changes to the agenda. Kim Williamson moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

- II Communications/Routine Consent Items/Regularly Recurring Reports/Other
 - A. Public Questions and Comments on Agenda Items - No comments
 - B. Routine Consent – Nannett Polk moved to approve routine consent items as previously submitted with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion motion carried 5-0. The field trips approved included:
 1. Girls Basketball Regional Games – February 8-9, 2019 – Columbia City, IN – overnight in Ft. Wayne, IN
 2. Area Career Center, Early Childhood to compete in the FCCLA competition – March 7-9, 2019 – Indianapolis, IN
 3. Area Career Center, Engineering – April 5-6, 2019 – Dayton, OH
 4. Area Career Center, Cosmetology – April 27-28, 2019 – Nashville, TN
 5. Middle School Choir to Kings Island – May 18, 2019 - Ohio
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments

II. New Business

A. Long Term Planning Task Force Presentation: Presenter-Jessika Feltz, Westwood Elementary parent and Long Term Planning Task Force member – Ms. Feltz presented the recommendations of the task force to all in attendance. The task force was a culmination of faculty, community members, and business representatives. There was an average of 50-55 people in attendance at each of the approximately 19 meetings. The task force presented four main recommendations. These items are a compilation of many meetings, data and research. The four priorities the task force would like the School Board to consider include:

1. Relocate 6th grade students to the middle school.
2. Renovate and pursue referendum to fund 6-8 middle school project.
3. Expand PreK programs to all elementary schools.
4. Maintain six elementary, one middle, and one high school (continue to evaluate enrollment).

At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Shoemaker wanted to thank all the LTPTF members, and 5 team leaders. Travis Callaway stated there were many questions and it may be necessary to hold a work session to focus on the recommendations that were presented. There was a lot of discussion regarding the commitment that is needed and the possibility of seeking a referendum. Also discussed were the challenges the corporation would face. At the conclusion of the discussion, two main things were noted that the board does not want to lose focus and that is transparency to the community and safety of our students.

- B. Curriculum Change for Middle School – Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent explained a proposal of new curriculum at the middle school level. Classes will assist with the state mandated Graduation Pathways and be an excellent opportunity for our middle school students to earn a high school credit in one of the courses. Project Lead The Way classes that are proposed are project based courses and will be a stepping stone in computer science. Adam McDaniel, principal stated these are 9 week units and good opportunities to build the pathways in computer science. The course for seventh grade would be embedded in the business curriculum and the course slated for 8th graders, will be for honor science students. These courses will also help with the STEM certification the middle school is seeking. A third course, Preparing for College and Careers will be assigned to all eighth grade students. Students will earn a high school credit for successful completion of this course. Nannett Polk moved to approve the curriculum changes with a second by Kim Williamson. After some discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- C. GFS Contract Pricing Change – Dee Orick, Food Service Director explained the reasoning for the increase in contract prices for second semester. This is a result of weather related issues affecting fruit and vegetables. After a brief discussion, Nannett

Polk moved to approve the contract with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

- III. Buildings & Grounds – Updates presented by Assistant Superintendent.
 - A. Pre-K – The program began on February 4 with six students in attendance and eight students are registered. It was a very positive start to the program. An Open House will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 and the board is invited to attend. Paperwork continues to be provided for eligibility standards. Dr. Shoemaker expressed his congratulations and gratitude to Lisa Smith and Sherri Bergum for their hard work.
 - B. Safety Glass – Lisa Smith has acquired quotes and will be presenting those within the next few weeks.
 - C. Activity Bus – Is currently doing an assessment and will provide an update.
 - D. Transfinder – Information is being compiled for input into this program.
 - E. Bus Inspection – 14 busses – passed at 100%.

- IV. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.
 - A. Update on upcoming meetings: Work Sessions on February 25, 2019 (Architects) and March 4, 2019 (Funding sources and opportunities) both meetings are open to the public.
 - B. E-Learning – Today was day #4 for both students and support staff. The corporation has received calls from at least 4 other corporations inquiring about our e-learning plan. Jena Schmidt then stated our support staff has completed in excess of 2055 total hours in professional development and as high as 91% participation rate. This indicates our lowest paid staff members appreciate the opportunity to receive compensation with an added benefit; the corporation has better trained individuals working with our students.
 - C. Accomplishments and Good News – Dr. Shoemaker mentioned some achievements from around the district.
 - D. Henry Community Health – A thank you for their support in providing new scoreboards in the middle school.

- VI. Budget – Corporation Treasurer gave information relating to budget items.
 - A. Transfer amounts from Education Fund to the Operations Fund – Megan Bell stated this would be a recurring monthly item. Nannett Polk moved to approve the transfer with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0.

- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.
 - A. Susie Delay, High School Teacher – Asked if staff would be needed for the new courses added at the middle school and what would happen to the teacher at the high

school who is currently teaching the course that is being phased to the middle school. Dr. Shoemaker stated it would be absorbed by the business department at the middle school level and other opportunities will be sought for the high school teacher. With the movement toward Graduation Pathways, several opportunities will be available for the high school teacher.

- B. Nannett Polk-League of Women Voters – A meeting will be held on February 26 at the Henry County Public Library. A flyer was available.
- C. Jennifer McGowan, Middle School Teacher – Expressed her appreciation to the community for their presence at the girls’ basketball games.
- D. Mike Broyles, community member – expressed is encouragement and appreciation of e-learning and how it will benefit students and avoid extending the school year into June.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____