

Minutes of Special Session
January 24, 2019

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 January 24, 2019 in a Special Session followed immediately by a Work Session.

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

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

Also Present: Approximately 5:00pm

- I. Special Session called to order by Board President at 5:07 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call – all members present
 - b. Appoint new board member – Dr. Shoemaker explained the corporation received five interest letters for the vacant board seat. All five candidates served on Long Term Planning Task Force. Legal counsel and the Indiana School Board Association were consulted throughout the entire process. The School Board met in executive session and narrowed the candidate pool to three. The selection process followed the legal regulations set by legislature. Cory Bennett then moved to nominate Jennifer Blackford as the new member of the New Castle School Board. Nannett Polk gave the second, motion carried 4-0.
 - c. Swear in new board member – Jennifer Blackford sworn in by Dr. Greg Crider.
 - d. Approval of agenda – Nannett Polk moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - e. Adjournment – With no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Work Session – Immediately following Special Session called to order at 5:07 pm

Presentation from Fanning & Howey

Dr. Shoemaker stated the presentation is not directly related to the long term planning task force; however it is about safe and secure entrances to some of our school buildings. He also stated the corporation has employed an additional security resource officer and instituted more security measures for our field house walkers. The bus drivers have taken initiative and double checked safety concerns on bus routing to ensure students are not crossing the road before they enter or exit the bus.

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Dr. Shoemaker presented each board member with information regarding the secure entrances that will be discussed this evening and the options that are available. The schools to be discussed this evening are Eastwood, Parker, Sunnyside and Wilbur Wright Elementary Schools. These buildings do not have secure entrances. The \$2 million dollar bond will be the funding source for these improvements. The Middle School will also need to be updated; however, there are not enough funds with the current bond. Megan Bell then updated the board about future bond opportunities and funding sources.

The architects from Fanning & Howey then gave a presentation of options for each elementary building. They explained each option and took questions along the way. One option was given for Sunnyside and one for Wilbur Wright. These options are very similar to what was completed at Riley and Westwood Elementary Schools. There were three to four options given for Eastwood and Parker Elementary Schools.

The representatives explained that in an effort to complete the remodel during the summer months, an option would need to be chosen so the bidding process could be completed in a timely manner. It was also mentioned, the cost of improvements for Sunnyside Elementary would fall under the requirement for the same bidding process, therefore could essentially take less time to get started. There was much discussion about the options and the possibility of one additional security resource officer at the elementary level. The Board President asked each board member to give their opinions. After lots of discussion and debate, Nannett Polk moved to approve the option for Wilbur Wright and move forward with option 3 for Eastwood and Parker Elementary School. Corry Bennett gave the second, after more discussion, motion carried 5-0. After the vote, Travis Callaway wanted to be clear; he was in favor of an additional SRO at the elementary level.

There was additional discussion regarding other projects including a weight room. This would require the corporation providing a space for the gymnastics team. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____