

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 March 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; Mr. Joel Harvey, Attorney; Megan Bell, Director of Finance; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Jena Schmidt, HR Specialist

Also Present: Approximately 21 community members

- I. Call to Order by Vice President Travis Callaway at 7:00 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call - All members were present.
 - B. Approval of Regular Session Minutes: February 11, 2019 – Nannett Polk moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Work Session Minutes: February 25, 2019 and March 4, 2019 - Cory Bennett moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Nannett Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - D. 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 Nannett Polk. 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 – Jennifer Blackford moved to approve routine consent items as previously submitted with a second by Cory Bennett. With no discussion motion carried 5-0. The field trips approved included:
 1. April 5-6, 2019: Career Center (Kelly Neal) to Dayton Ohio for a Robotics Competition.
 2. April 16-18, 2019: Career Center (Angie Talbott) to Indianapolis for a Demonstration & Mastery Competition
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments
- III. New Business
 - A. Acknowledge Luke Bumbalough and Cameron Tabor: Dr. Shoemaker wanted to present the Trojan of Excellence Award to two student athletes for their athletic records and academic success. He stated this was the first time students would receive this award. He then stated that Cameron Tabor would be attending Davidson

- College in the fall and Luke Bumbalough would be attending Ball State University. Both seniors would be playing basketball at that level. They are both sound academic students and wonderful role models to the younger generation. Kim Williamson then presented them with the award and spoke a few words.
- B. Interlocal Cooperation Agreement: Food2School – Ms. Dee Orick explained the contract and informed the board she was seeking to join this food cooperative. It is free to join and consists of 55 school districts. She also indicated this cooperative would greatly increase the purchasing power of the corporation and has the potential of obtaining a substantial savings to the corporation. After some questions from the Board, Nannett Polk moved to approve the contract with a second by Cory Bennett. With no further discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Maintain School Board Regular Session on Monday, April 8, 2019 – Dr. Shoemaker stated in past years the April Board meeting was moved due to Spring Break. He wanted the Board to know that this year it would remain on the second Monday of the month and would not be changed.
- IV. Buildings & Grounds – Updates presented by Assistant Superintendent.
- A. Transfinder – Ms. Lisa Smith gave an update on the program that the corporation hopes to be in place prior to the start of next school year. The first training has been completed with several others already scheduled. This Program will allow the corporation to be more efficient in the routing procedures as well as provide a geo code to each student so the drivers will have a complete and accurate listing of all the students assigned and riding their bus. The corporation is training three individuals at this time. There was some discussion regarding the program.
- V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.
- A. Operation Stop Arm – Dr. Shoemaker stated in cooperation with local law enforcement, Operation Stop Arm is in progress. He also stated the drivers have been proactive regarding the safety and security of our students during stops, but they have noticed several cars passing while the stop arm has been extended. This endeavor was put in place as a result of a quarterly safety meeting in conjunction with our city police. There was also discussion of possible legislation that may increase the consequences if one is convicted of this type offense.
 - B. A reminder of the four recommendations from the Long Term Planning Task Force was listed. 1. Commitment to Pre-K in our buildings; 2. Keep all schools open while monitoring student enrollment; 3. Move grade six to the Middle School; 4. Renovate the Middle School and seek a referendum.
 - C. Review of the Fanning & Howey – A review of the power point from Fanning & Howey was presented to all in attendance. This was a reminder of the discussion held during a work session on February 25, 2019. It was also reiterated that the safety of

- our students is of utmost importance and all projects have been prioritized as they relate to safety. The Board agreed that safety is of great importance and the Board does not want to lose sight of these serious issues. Dr. Shoemaker reminded everyone that there were duplications in the presentation by Fanning & Howey because some projects may be separate from any referendum work. He also noted that these projects were a list of options and that some may not be chosen or chosen but privately funded.
- D. GO Bond Projects – The Corporation will be opening and securing bids on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. These bids will cover the secure entrances that were discussed at a previous meeting. There are some projects that will be placed on hold until a decision regarding a referendum is made.
 - E. March 4, 2019 – The Work Session that was held regarding funding options/sources and possible tax implications was this discussed. The board has been given a timeline of when tasks and required notifications must be completed for referendum. A separate timeline was presented for both November 2019 and May 2020 elections. Also discussion regarding the corporation debt capacity ensued. Pros and cons for seeking a referendum inside or outside of the tax caps were also discussed.
 - F. Tonight’s discussion: Dr. Shoemaker ended his report stating direction is needed from the Board before we can move forward. He stated decisions did not need to be made tonight, however a decision needs to occur soon. There was lots of discussion regarding future GO bonds as well as polling information that may be helpful to get a pulse on what the community would support as it relates to a referendum. The estimated cost for this polling is \$6500. He also stated that if the Board chose to seek a referendum, future work sessions would need to be scheduled in order to meet the timelines presented by counsel. Dr. Shoemaker gave a brief update on where the corporation has spent the most money since his arrival. The largest portion of our dollars has been spent on security, followed by academics, then performing arts and athletics. He also provided data on donations from the county. It was recommended to obtain polling information to ensure we had enough data to proceed.
- 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 Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.
- A. Jaci Hadsell, former educator: Stated Mr. Eiler’s recommendation was not to wait too long so the school was not competing with the city regarding a new jail. She stated that was her concern with waiting to seek a referendum in May 2020.

- B. Tina Durham, educator: Wanted to thank Dustin Chew and Sherri Bergum for all their work in creating the e-learning days this school year. It is appreciated.
- C. Patty Broyles, Task Force Member: Expressed her thanks to administration and the Board. She appreciates both for seeking community input and believes it is time to move forward. She ended her statement with: “Let’s be the best”.
- D. Melissa Hethcox, bus driver: Began by stating she is representing co-workers from the Transportation Department. She agrees that safety should be #1 and was pleased with her first meeting. She then asked for a time to meet with the Board as a representative of the Transportation Department to seek some clarity on recent events within the department. After some discussion, Travis Callaway wanted to make it clear he would be happy to speak with anyone; however they are a board of governance and establish policy and this is different from management, which is left up to administration. He also wanted to remind everyone in attendance that we are all on the same team and our customer is the students. He concluded by stating the Board will listen but it will be in the right forum.
- E. Bill Huber, bus driver: Asked if the Board would receive written questions? The answer was absolutely.
- F. Jaci Hadsell: concluded by stating the Show Choir has advanced to the state competition level.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____