

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 April 8, 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, Chief Financial Officer, Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Jena Schmidt, HR Specialist

**Also Present:** Approximately 16 community members

- I. Call to Order by Vice President Travis Callaway at 7:01 p.m.
  - A. Roll Call - All members were present.
  - B. Approval of Regular Session Minutes: March 11, 2019 – Kim Williamson moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second Cory Bennett. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
  - C. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated there were two items deleted from the posted agenda. Item III d. Review Polling Data and III g. Approval of Textbook Adoption. Nan Polk moved to amend as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion 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 – Cory Bennett 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. April 25-26, 2019: Holly Drummond & Vicki Bertram (High School) to Purdue University to attend The World Food Prize Purdue Youth Institute.
    2. April 24-26, 2019: Tina Durham & Neria Smith (Parker Elementary) to Flat Rock YMCA for outdoor education investigating the ecosystem.
  - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments
- III. New Business
  - A. Graduation Pathways Presentation: Lisa Smith gave a brief introduction and turned the meeting over to Kirk Amman, Principal and Karen Bimber, Guidance Counselor. Mr. Amman stated that beginning with incoming freshman this fall the state has new graduation guidelines entitled Graduation Pathways. This new legislation was passed in late 2017. The new guidance de-emphasizes standardized testing. Graduation Pathways consists of three “buckets” each student must complete to meet the

- requirements for graduation. The buckets include: #1-Credits; #2-Learn and Demonstrate Employability Skills and #3-Postsecondary-Ready Competencies. Karen Bimber then spoke about the checklist that will be completed for each student. She also mentioned that each corporation can have 10% of the students apply for a waiver if they do not meet the new requirements. However, if the corporation goes beyond the 10% mark, a remediation plan will need to be developed. There was a brief discussion following the presentation.
- B. \*Approve Summer Project Bid: Wilbur Wright Secure Entrance. Lisa Smith stated Fanning & Howey reviewed the bids that were received to verify each fell within the parameters needed for the plans. Then she asked for approval to accept the bid from LTB Construction for the Wilbur Wright Elementary project. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. After a brief discussion, motion carried 5-0.
  - C. Safety and Security Update: Dr. Shoemaker gave an update on the Safety & Security Initiatives that have been accomplished to date and some planned and potential initiatives. A complete listing is attached and will be posted on the corporation website.
  - D. \*Update Plan Document for Valic Annuity: Corporation Plan Document. Megan Bell stated the change to the plan document, which is attached, was detailed on page three. The update would allow hardship distributions and loans against the plan. The corporation felt the employee should have access to their funds in times of need. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 4-0. Travis Callaway abstained from the vote due to his profession and to avoid any possible conflict.
  - E. \*Resolution for the Purchase of Property: Dr. Shoemaker stated partially due to safety concerns regarding traffic at the Middle School as well as provide office space for our Special Education Department to be in a single location, he is seeking approval to work with the Board President to seek purchasing property on Bundy Avenue. Nan Polk moved that the board pass a resolution for the Superintendent to work with the legal counsel to purchase property at 1908 Bundy Avenue while remaining within outlined state purchasing guidelines for school corporations. Kim Williamson gave the second and after much discussion regarding how this will improve the safety of students as well as allow Special Education to be in a single location, the motion carried 5-0.
- IV. Buildings & Grounds – Updates presented by Assistant Superintendent.
- A. The Corporation is working on receiving quotes for other secure entrance projects.
  - B. Transfinder training is occurring weekly to ensure implementation at the beginning of the school year

- C. Summer School grant is being compiled for Elementary, Middle School and High School students. We hope to have enough students to provide these opportunities for credit recovery and remediation as well as additional courses that may free up some schedules at the high school level.
  - D. Kindergarten Roundup is this week as well as Parker Pre-K. Arrangements have been made to bring a bus and a few drivers to the schools for students to tour and meet some of our drivers. She also stated an Instructional Assistant has been hired for this program and currently we have seven students. At this time, until sixth grade is moved, there is not additional space for other Pre-K programs in other locations.
  - E. Latch Key – Ms. Smith and Ms. Bergum are working with our Latch Key providers to improve efficiency of the program that will give greater opportunities for our students. They are also examining after-school programs in other corporations.
- V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.
- A. The corporation is currently awaiting quotes for 7-10 projects that have been discussed at various board meetings. Updates will be provided as they are received.
  - B. Polling data was received late Friday and will need to be reviewed prior to discussion. Information will be presented at the next regular board meeting as well as quotes to determine if a referendum within our outside of the tax caps is recommended.
  - C. Dr. Shoemaker stated he held a State of the Corporation address in December 2018. Over the next couple of weeks, he will be meeting with employees in each building to discuss similar topics, including reviewing insurance, school safety as well as building projects.
  - D. Retirement – The office has received several letters of intent to retire from our teaching staff. All will be recognized in June.
  - E. Spring Concert – This will include performances from the band, percussion and choirs. The program will begin at 7:00 pm and promises to be great.
- 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. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the transfer with a second by Cory Bennett. With little discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.
- A. Jessika Feltz, parent – Stated she was the proud parent of a second grade student at Westwood Elementary. She complimented the improvements on communication from the board, however wanted to caution them regarding where to draw the line between security and discipline as it relates to our SRO's. The superintendent stated these concerns will be discussed during the next quarterly safety meeting with our administrators and police officers.

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- B. Mary Higgins, teacher – Asked if a recommendation of services were given to students and parents of students who have received discipline from the corporation. She wanted to know if expelled students stayed connected for education and mental health opportunities. Adam McDaniel, Middle School Principal stated that connection is maintained and places to receive services, if needed, are given to the families. Plato is also utilized to maintain the educational process.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_