

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 May 13, 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; Joel Harvey; Megan Bell, Director of Finance; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Jena Schmidt, HR Specialist

Also Present: Approximately 18 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: April 8, 2019 – Nan Polk moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated one change to the posted agenda. One change – added “J” – enter into agreement and address under New Business - Kim Williamson moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Cory Bennett. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- II. Communications/Routine Consent Items/Regularly Recurring Reports/Other
 - A. Public Questions and Comments on Agenda Items
 1. Janet Maxwell, Teacher – Asked for clarification on item VI. A. Budget. Megan Bell answered her questions that this was a recurring item.
 - B. Routine Consent – Nan Polk 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:
 2. May 17-18, 2019 – Christina Steigerwalt (CTE-Dental Class) to provide free dental clinic in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 3. May 31, 2019 – Stacey Tolle (Middle School) to Kings Island in Mason, Ohio.
 4. June 14, 2019 – Clara Green & Robin Wilson (Wilbur Wright Elementary) to Center of Science & Industry in Columbus, Ohio.
 5. August 26-27, 2019 – Mary Jane Dye (Wilbur Wright Elementary Focus Classroom) to St. Louis Missouri.
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments
- III. New Business

- J - *Approval to enter into an athletic facility agreement with Small Wonders Gymnastics – It was stated the agreement was exciting for the corporation and our students. Shane Osting, Athletic Director stated the agreement with Small Wonders Gymnastics would provide the corporation a facility well suited for both meets and practices for our gymnastics team. Nan Polk moved to authorize the Superintendent or Designee to sign on behalf of the school corporation and enter into an athletic facility agreement with Small Wonders Gymnastics. A second was given by Kim Williamson. With little discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- A. *Textbook Adoption – Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director reported the elementary level will be adopting Reading materials and following the suggested cycle for curriculum adoption developed by the Indiana Department of Education. After lots of discussion, Cory Bennett moved to approve the textbook adoption as presented. Jennifer Blackford gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
- B. *Middle School and High School Handbooks – Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent, worked closely with both the High School and Middle School administrators and updated the student handbooks. The revisions were submitted for review and approval. Changes regarding backpacks and purses were revised in these most recent editions as well as other revisions. There was much discussion. Nan Polk moved to approve both Middle School and High School handbooks as presented. Kim Williamson gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
- C. *1st Reading of Policy #3131-Reduction in Force (“RIF”) in Certificated Staff – Dr. Shoemaker explained the process of adopting this policy and waiving the first reading. He also stated that proposed policy #3131 had been discussed with the Teachers’ Association through Mutual Concerns. He explained there is currently not a reduction planned and he reminded everyone that we absorbed eleven teaching positions in the corporation last year through attrition. He went on to say that adopting the policy at the May board meeting would help not only comply with state law but it would also give any teacher impacted by a RIF, as much notice as possible. Nan Polk moved to waive first reading on School Board Policy #3131-Reduction in Force (“RIF”) in Certificated Staff. Kim Williamson gave the second and motion carried 5-0. Then Nan Polk moved to adopt final reading on School Board Policy #3131-Reduction in Force (“RIF”) in Certificated Staff. Kim Williamson gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
- D. *Sunnyside Elementary K-4 (Grade 4 pending 2019/2020 Enrollment) – Dr. Shoemaker reminded the Board that one recommendation of the Task Force was to keep all buildings open. In keeping with that recommendation, if enrollment can support the addition, a fourth grade section will be added at Sunnyside Elementary. Cory Bennett moved to approve Sunnyside to have grades Kindergarten through grade 4 depending on enrollment. Jennifer Blackford gave the second and after some discussion, motion carried 5-0.

- E. *Ratify Purchase of Bundy Avenue Property – The Board was informed the corporation’s offer had been accepted by the owner. The corporation is working with Susan Falck-Neal on final details of the purchase. The corporation is seeking approval to ratify the purchase of the Bundy Avenue property. A thank you was extended to Susan for her time and expertise. This building will be the future home of the Special Area Services Department and will allow these employees to be in a single location. Cory Bennett moved to approve the purchase of the 1908 Bundy Avenue property. Kim Williamson gave the second. After some discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- F. Community Survey Results – Upon Board request the corporation commissioned a voter survey. Key findings of the survey include – 48 of the total responders were 65 years of age or older. 51% of the responders would support renovations at the middle school and various other building projects. There were a few questions from the community.
- G. Report on Capital Projects including renovation of middle school and other associated building projects – Dr. Shoemaker discussed the priority listing of proposed renovations and projects. A spreadsheet was displayed for the community to follow along detailing the projects. The total amount of the proposed projects was \$33.5 million. The primary renovations would occur at the middle school property to update and provide additional security for our students. Additional items included maintenance items, Bundy Auditorium, athletic facilities, kitchens and other miscellaneous items. There was much discussion and debate between board members regarding pursuing a long term bond/referendum inside or outside the tax caps (inside tax caps would be cost neutral for tax payers whereas outside tax caps would increase taxes). Each board member provided feedback and thoughts on the two options. After a lengthy discussion, Travis Callaway asked for a motion to move to a vote. Nan Polk moved to pursue a referendum outside the tax caps. Cory Bennett gave the second. An individual vote was taken. Jennifer Blackford-No; Cory Bennett-No; Travis Callaway-No; Kim Williamson-No; Nan Polk-Yes. Motion failed 1-4.
- H. *Approval of publication of notice of public hearings for bond projects – Dr. Shoemaker stated two public hearing would be required to move forward with a long term bond inside the tax caps. He proposed June 3, 2019 at 6:00 pm and a second to occur during next regular session on June 10, 2019. These hearings would include presentations from the architect, financial groups and the corporation. Kim Williamson moved to authorize publication of the notice of hearings on a \$33.5 million dollar construction project. Travis Callaway gave the second and the motion carried 5-0.
- I. *Change regular School Board Meeting from July 8, 2019 to July 15, 2019 – Dr. Shoemaker stated to avoid the Independence Day holiday, he is recommending the July Regular School Board meeting be held on July 15, 2019 instead of July 8, 2019.

- Cory Bennet moved to approve the request with a second by Jennifer Blackford.
Motion carried 5-0.
- J. *Approval to enter into an athletic facility agreement with Small Wonders
Gymnastics – item moved to beginning of New Business.
- IV. Buildings & Grounds – Lisa Smith did not have a report.
- V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.
- A. Appreciate the passion and debate regarding the funding options for the capital projects discussed. He also wanted to thank the board for their dedication and time to learn and understand the process.
- B. Social Workers – We now have social workers at all of our schools. Thank you to Sherri Bergum and Centerstone for their leadership in this area.
- C. May 6 – Teacher Appreciation Week – a big thank you to all of our dedicated educators who make a difference in the lives of our students every day.
- D. E-Learning attendance – Very comparable attendance. He was pleased with the outcome and hard work of our staff to get this functional this year.
- E. Red for Ed – Wednesday is Red for Ed to promote public education. There will be many staff members who will be walking in the Memorial Day Parade wearing red shirts to support public education.
- F. Telehealth Presentation will be given during the June board meeting.
- G. Stellar Distinction in the community – New Castle is one of the top 4 finalists to receive this award. Nan Polk serves on the education committee and explained part of the process. The winner will be chosen in December and receive \$22 million dollars. The runners up will split a \$1 million dollar prize.
- H. Music – Spring Sing – The corporation has many talented teachers and students – congratulations was given to our staff for receiving the Indiana State School Association all Music Award for 18-19.
- I. Congratulations to our 2019 graduates. Commencement is on June 2nd at 2pm.
- J. Jacob White – Congratulations to our own Eastwood Elementary Principal for receiving the District 6 Principal of the Year award.
- 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 recommendation with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.
- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.
- A. Elizabeth Whitmer, former board member – asked about kindergarten round-up numbers as it pertains to the change in the new age requirement. Sherri Bergum stated we are happy with the numbers this year. We are down from last year but still

Minutes of Public Meeting

May 13, 2019

- up compared to the last several years. Travis Callaway then expressed his gratitude to Liz and Jamey Marcum for their leadership.
- B. Janet Maxwell, teacher – expressed her appreciation to Nan Polk as well.
 - C. Jessika Feltz, parent – expressed her thoughts on keeping backpacks in the lockers and how similar changes has occurred throughout the years. .
 - D. Annette Goggin, teacher – appreciated the respectful debate. She then stated she had been selected to read AP exams in Florida next month and John Thompson had also been granted in honor for Chemistry.
 - E. Jaci Hadsell, former principal – stated that Jacob White was also recognized as a Friend of Education for New Castle.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____