

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 10, 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 June 10, 2019.

**Board Members Present:** 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 Compliance Officer

**Also Present:** Approximately 21 community members

- I. Call to Order by Vice President Travis Callaway at 7:00 p.m.
  - A. Roll Call – Four members present – Cory Bennett was not in attendance.

The President then stated he was going to change the order of the agenda in an effort to be respectful of everyone's time. The first order of business would be to honor our retirees. Travis Callaway read the list of retirees and their years of service to the New Castle Community School Corporation and total years in education.

The next item was public comment. The following individuals addressed the Board.

- Kelly Morgan, parent of Austin Morgan; she spoke in support of Coach Andy Carter. She understands an opening exists for the cross country high school coach and as her run runs track as well as distance, she wants to express her support for Andy. She stated he cares for the kids and is an excellent communicator and does not let them quit. She then stated one of her favorite quotes from him is "if you want to go fast go alone – if you want to go far, go together". He has always been a great example for our kids.
- Mother of Chris Graham; Also spoke in support of Andy Carter. Her son is currently running at Franklin College and she attributes his success to the dedication and support her son received from Andy Carter. Travis Callaway also appreciated the comments and spoke highly of Andy Carter when he coached with him.
- Katy Nelson, parent; Stated she has two sons, one at the middle school level and one at the high school level. She also wanted to express her support of Andy Carter and it is because of him that one of her sons has been able to participate in many things because Andy told him we would "make it work. The amount of support from Andy is incredible. He fosters the team." The second item to address was the decision of administration to keep backpacks in the lockers during the school day. She understands the decision, but as a concerned parent, she is concerned that a student may have difficulty keeping laptops safe, and she fears students will be tardy to class during a four minute passing period. She stated parents were informed during orientation to provide a padded bag to carry the laptops. She is worried about the increased cost in damages and as she thinks in dollars and cents, "breakage could be prevented with a \$40 backpack".

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- Janet Maxwell, high school teacher; She is glad to see the backpacks go as students carry too many items they are a reason for many trips in the classroom. She stated some backpacks can weigh up to over 40 pounds. She then asked for clarification on the Opportunity School presentation.
- Debbie Raines, elementary teacher; She wanted to thank Dr. Shoemaker for taking time and walking with the teachers during the “Red for Ed” campaign during the recent parade. “His presence said volumes to us (teachers)”.
- Jennifer McGowan, middle school teacher; She also wanted to publically thank Jennifer Blackford for driving the truck and supporting the teachers.
- Dr. Matthew Shoemaker, Superintendent; wanted to speak about the decision for limiting backpacks to lockers at school. He mentioned that after the Parkland, Florida shooting a meeting was held here that included, representatives from middle, high schools, security team and administration. The security staff noted some of our greatest security weaknesses include: need for security to have keys-all SRO’s now have access; not aware of all who are in the buildings-issued 225 badges for walkers; too many open entrances that cannot be monitored-reduced to manageable number; remote visual access-this is being addressed; and backpacks. The recommendation was to eliminate backpacks totally. Dr. Shoemaker stated more conversations will need to take place. He then mentioned a survey was completed from approximately 100 high school students and the good news is that our students believe we are providing a welcoming safe environment for them to learn. More conversations will take place once we have ‘lived’ the new requirement, but ultimately we are here for the students.
- Jessika Feltz, parent; asked when the requirement to allow backpacks changed. It was discussed possibly the issue of laptops was the reason.

### B. Second Public Hearing – Renovation Project

A meeting of the Board of School Trustees (the “Board”) of New Castle Community School Corporation (the “School Corporation”) was held at 322 Elliott Avenue, New Castle, Indiana on June 10, 2019 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. (local time), pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the board.

On call of the roll, members of the Board were shown to be present or absent as follows:

Present: Jennifer Blackford, Travis Callaway, Nannett Polk, Kim Williamson. Absent: Cory Bennett

(Among other proceedings had and action taken were the following:)

The President presided over the hearing, welcoming everyone and introducing members of the Board and speakers.

It was explained that under Indiana law whenever a school corporation proposes to construct or renovate a school building at a cost in excess of one million dollars it must first hold a public hearing. Additionally, another purpose of the meeting was that under Indiana Code 61.1203.5 whenever a school corporation proposes to enter into a lease agreement and/or issue bonds for the construction or renovation of a school building resulting in total costs in excess of certain thresholds, the school corporation is required to hold two public hearings on its preliminary determination to issue such bonds and enter into such lease agreement. The first hearing on the preliminary determination for the Project (as defined herein) was held on June 3, 2019. Notice of both public hearings was published in *The Courier Times* on May 23, 2019, and was mailed to the Henry County Clerk and any organizations previously requesting such notice as provided in Indiana Code 61.1203.5. The proofs of publication of the notice of the hearing were presented to the meeting.

It was explained that at this hearing all interested people may give testimony and/or ask questions concerning the 2020 Facility Safety, Security, Efficiency, Construction and Restoration Project, which includes the renovation of and improvements to New Castle Middle School and other school facilities in the district, including site improvements and the purchase of equipment and technology (the "Project"). The purpose of the hearing is twofold: (1) to inform the public as to the proposed Project; and (2) to allow all interested parties, taxpayers and patrons of the School Corporation to voice their opinions as to the Project and ask questions.

After the purpose of the hearings was explained, the presentations regarding the need for the Project were given. An evaluation of the existing facilities was presented, including the building plan explaining the proposed Project. The estimated Project cost and schedule were then presented to the public. It was explained how this Project could be funded and the tax rate impact the Project would have on the community.

After the above presentations, the Board President announced that the Board would now hear testimony and questions from the public. Questions and testimony were given by a few patrons.

At the conclusion of the public testimony and question, the Board considered the Project Resolution to complete the Project at a cost of more than one million dollars per building. Thereafter, the resolution attached as Exhibit A passed by a vote of 4-0.

Also at the conclusion of the public testimony and question, the Board considered the Preliminary Determination Resolution to issue bonds and enter a lease agreement in order to complete the Project. Thereafter, the resolution attached as Exhibit B passed by a vote of 4-0.

The President further stated that the Board needed to consider a Reimbursement Resolution. On a motion duly made, the resolution attached as Exhibit C was adopted by a vote of 4-0.

The Public Hearing was adjourned.

- C. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session - May 13, 2019 – Nan Polk asked to clarify minutes from May 13, 2019 (Page 3, item F) to include wording from question #7 from the survey. It asked “Would you support or oppose a property tax increase to: enhance safety and security in all schools; fund School Resource Officers; expand Pre-K programs; expand auxiliary gym space at the high school, renovate Bundy Auditorium, and improve safety, parking, traffic flow, and technology at the Middle School?” This question was supported by 51% of those polled. Nan Polk then moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 4-0.
- D. Approval of Minutes: Public Hearing – June 3, 2019 Kim Williamson moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion, motion carried 4-0.
- E. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated one change had been made to the posted agenda. Item “i” – Approval of Area Career Operating Agreement – under New Business as well as some personnel changes on the Personnel Report. Nan Polk moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 4-0.

## II. Communications/Routine Consent Items/Regularly Recurring Reports/Other

- A. Public Questions and Comments on Agenda Items – No comments
- B. Routine Consent – Nan Polk asked for clarification on a couple field trips – then she moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion motion carried 4-0. The field trips approved included:
  - 1. June 12-14, 2019 – Daniel Cox & Cory Criswell to Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana for Super Hoops Team Camp.
  - 2. June 15-22, 2019 – Susan Delay to Dallas, Texas for students to compete in National Caliber Speech & Debate tournament.
  - 3. June 21-23, 2019 – Daniel Cox to Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana for Super Hoops Team Camp.
  - 4. June 25, 2019 – Molly Swift to Kings Island, Mason, Ohio – Girls basketball team.
  - 5. July 15-19, 2019 – High School Cross Country team to Quaker Haven Camp, Syracuse, Indiana for team bonding.
  - 6. July 21-25, 2019 – Karen Foster & Kirk Amman to Renaissance National Conference in Orlando, Florida.
  - 7. August 11, 2019 – Curt Huntley to Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments

## III. New Business

- A. Trojan Award of Excellence – Jacob White – Region 6 Principal of the Year – will present the award on July 15, 2019.

- B. Honor 2019 Retirees – Total years of experience with New Castle Schools
1. Karen Bell – Elementary Music – 32.5 years
  2. Penelope Bowman – Elementary Physical Education – 35 years
  3. Kathy Cartwright – Eastwood Elementary Pre-School – 16 years
  4. Stacey Crane – Parker Elementary Grade 1 – 32 years
  5. Joyce Hinsey – High School English & Mathematics – 40.5 years
  6. Brenda Inskeep – Wilbur Wright Elementary – 20 years
  7. Lisa Jackson – Riley Elementary Grade 1 – 33.5 years
  8. Susan McGrady – Wilbur Wright Elementary Grade 2 – 38.5 years
  9. Norma Spangler – Wilbur Wright Elementary Focus Grade 3-4 – 43 years
  10. Emma Willis – High School Mathematics – 39 years

The Shapiro Award was given to Norma Spangler for 43 years of service to the students of the New Castle Community School Corporation.

- C. \*Food Service Contracts – Dee Orick gave a brief explanation of the contracts presented. Jennifer Blackford then moved to approve as presented and explained. Nan Polk gave the second and after a brief discussion, motion carried 4-0. Dee Orick then stated that during the first week of the Summer Food Program, 1156 meals were served. The Board thanked her for her dedication and vision.
- D. \*After School Programming Contract (Latchkey) – Lisa Smith stated we will hold after school programs at both Riley & Parker Elementary. After some discussion, Nan Polk moved to approve the contract with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 4-0.
- E. \*Renewal for Raintree Property with Headstart (Contract) – Lisa Smith stated the contract was previously amended in February. It is now renewal time and there have been no changes since the amendment. Kim Williamson moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 4-0.
- F. \*Approve Schedule of Textbook Rental & Fees – Lisa Smith stated this was figures each year after textbook adoption and is a standard item for textbooks and consumables. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve with a second by Kim Williamson. After some discussion motion carried 4-0.
- G. \*Approval of Elementary Handbook – Sherri Bergum stated no major changes were included in this handbook. Wording on consequences were adjusted to stay consistent with the wording in other student handbooks. She also stated this update occurred every year. Kim Williamson moved to approve with a second by Jennifer Blackford. After a brief discussion, motion carried 4-0.
- H. \*Approval of High School Opportunity School – Kirk Amman gave a presentation on the proposed Opportunity School. He stated it was a school within a school concept that is designed to help those at-risk youth who are close to completing the requirements for a diploma. He stated this was being done in an informal way and he wanted to create a formal process for these kids. He also stated that as there will be 3 hours of seat time for each student, those who are accepted to participate will be eligible for full funding from the State. The program is hoping to start with 10-15 students. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. After some discussion, motion carried 4-0.

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- I. \*Approval of Area Career Center Operating Agreement – After a brief explanation from Dr. Shoemaker, Kim Williamson moved to approve the agreement as presented with a second by Nan Polk. With no further discussion, motion carried 4-0.
  
- IV. Buildings & Grounds – Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent gave a report on the following:
  - A. Pre-K Program – This program was open to Parker students and the program had seven students enrolled. Next year the program will be a full-day program and to date has 18 students with a waiting list. She also stated licensing has been obtained and will be a level 3 in Paths to Equality by August will allow us to apply for some state dollars.
  - B. Facilities – Lots of areas have begun – Wilbur Wright secure entrance as well as bleachers in the field house has been started. We have employed 13 of our career students to assist in the refinishing process. It is expected to be completed by August.
  - C. Floors in locker room showers and training rooms as well as electrical junction boxes have been moved. Bleachers have also been moved.
  - D. The Bundy property has been cleaned and landscaping is in progress. The Special Area Services is planning their move to the building on June 27, 2019.
  
- V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.
  - A. Dr. Shoemaker stated there are some great things going on – he wanted to thank the team and mentioned a Google doc has been created listing all ongoing projects.
  - B. He congratulated all graduates on the June 2 Commencement Ceremony. A big thank you to Kirk Amman, James Thurston and Karen Bimber.
  - C. Dr. Shoemaker stated during the May Board Meeting a Reduction in Force policy was approved and with a loss of 59 students this school year, the corporation has done some moving of teachers and created the Opportunity School in an effort to keep some of our students on track. With these changes, he was pleased to report, the RIF policy would not be utilized. He gave Kudos to teachers and the association in their willingness to work with administration.
  - D. Lastly, a reminder that the next regular session will be held on July 15, 2019.
  
- VI. Budget – Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer, gave information relating to budget items.
  - A. Transfer appropriations from Education Fund to the Operations Fund – May expenditures – After a brief explanation, Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 4-0.
  - B. Transfer appropriations from Education Fund to Operations Fund – June expenditures – After a brief explanation, Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 4-0.
  - C. Approval of Corporate Resolution to Grant Collateral – Megan Bell stated this was necessary every three years for our Workman’s Compensation Insurance as the corporation is self-funded. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 4-0.
  
- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.

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- A. Nan Polk wanted to thank our administrators for their wonderful work running the multi-million dollar organizations – Thank you
- B. Liz Whitmer also wanted to thank Dr. Shoemaker for his vision and leadership. He has been inclusive in the process and open in communication.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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

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

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