

## Minutes of Public Meeting

August 12, 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 August 12, 2019.

**Board Members Present:** Cory Bennett, Member; Jennifer Blackford, Member; Nan Polk, Secretary; Kim Williamson, Vice President

**Central Office Administrators Present:** Dr. Matthew Shoemaker, Superintendent; Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Joel Harvey, Attorney; Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Jena Schmidt, HR Compliance Officer

**Also Present:** Approximately 22 community members

- I. Call to Order by Vice President Kim Williamson at 6:59 p.m.
  - A. Roll Call – Four members present – Travis Callaway was not in attendance.
  - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session - July 15, 2019 – Cory Bennett moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion, the motion carried 4-0.
  - C. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated one change had been made to the posted agenda. Item “i” – Approval to amend 2019-2020 School Calendar - under New Business – Nan Polk moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion, the 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 – Jennifer Blackford moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Kim Williamson stated he will abstain from the vote as his wife is listed on the Personnel Report. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0-1.
  - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments
  
- III. New Business
  - A. Acknowledge Percussion Team – Dr. Shoemaker introduced Mr. Buckalew, Percussion Teacher and students from the Percussion Team. During a recent State Competition sponsored by the Indiana Percussion Association, New Castle placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team was recognized and presented Dr. Shoemaker with a medal.
  - B. Presentation from the Myers Family – Kyle York, varsity football coach, introduced his grandmother, Bonnie Myers. He explained a foundation was created to assist with projects their family has an interest in. Mrs. Myers presented a check for \$20,000 to Dr. Shoemaker to fund a football pavillion. Shane Osting, Athletic Director thanked the Myers family for their dedication and support of New Castle Schools and the community. Dr. Shoemaker and the Board also expressed their gratitude for the support.

- C. Fanning & Howey Report – Lisa Smith stated Bill Payne or an associate will be attending each month as the corporation goes through the process for the renovations. He presented each Board member with a schedule and agenda. Mr. Payne gave a broad overview of the timeline for various projects funded both through GO Bonds as well as the \$33 million Middle School renovation project. A digital recording will be created that will assist with a more accurate drawing. This will ensure an accurate bidding process. There was some discussion. Dr. Shoemaker discussed briefly the leadership team that will be a part of this project and introduced Stephen Sullivan, Assistant Principal and Chris York, Dean of Students. Both are new hires for New Castle Middle School and were welcomed.
- D. Declare Conflict of Interest – Dr. Shoemaker explained that he wanted to remain transparent and formally declare a Conflict of Interest. He stated that he did not have a vote in the upcoming approval, and he would not receive any monetary value in the potential insurance change. However, he wanted to declare that his brother is the Chief Medical Officer for St. Vincent and his wife is a nurse in the St. Vincent network. Kim Williamson also declared a Conflict of Interest. He stated his wife was approved as a teacher and therefore, he now has a family member that is part of the bargaining unit. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve these two Conflicts of Interest as presented with a second by Nan Polk. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0-1 (Kim Williamson abstained from the vote).
- E. Approval of MOU – Dr. Shoemaker recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was presented between the New Castle Community School Corporation and the New Castle Education Association (NCEA). He explained why this was necessary and presented detailed information related to the MOU. He also stated the NCEA voted on the MOU on August 7 and it passed by a vote of 114-3. Then on August 9, the NCEA voted to create a spousal carve-out to be effective on September 1, 2019. This passed by a vote of 54-31. Dr. Shoemaker has expressed his thanks to Josh Estelle, the Insurance Committee and the Association. Cory Bennett moved to approve the MOU with a second by Jennifer Blackford. After some discussion, the motion carried 3-0-1 with Kim Williamson abstaining due to his family member being a part of the NCEA.
- F. Establish Community Foundation Funds – Dr. Shoemaker stated this does not require a vote, but was asked to be placed on the agenda this month. He stated generous donations have been received and the Administrative Team will be discussing other funds that may benefit from similar donations during their regular meeting on August 21. Examples of possible funds included, Robotics, funding trips to Washington DC as well as other classroom projects. Mike Broyles, Community Foundation Board Member explained an endowment may be a possibility as more funds are created. There was some discussion among Board Members.
- G. Second Reading of 2623.01 & 4162 – Dr. Shoemaker stated Neola provides updates to the corporation and these policies were presented last month. Nan Polk moved to approve these two policies on second and final reading as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. With no further discussion, the motion carried 4-0.
- H. Approve McKinney Vento Homeless Plan – Dr. Shoemaker stated due to the resignation of James Carson, the plan needed to be revised. The new coordinator is now Kelley Cox. Nan

Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. After some discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

- I. Approve amended 2019-2020 School Calendar – Mrs. Bergum stated that due to conflicts with Administrator Safety Specialist Training and testing schedules, she is asking the two built in E-Learning days be changed to September 24, 2019 and March 11, 2020. The change has been discussed with Mutual Concerns and all are in agreement. Cory Bennet moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

IV. Buildings & Grounds – Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent gave a report on the following:

- A. Technology Department – has configured over 775 chrome books, switched to a new ticketing system, and completed several projects within school computer labs. The department has also closed over 300 tickets this month.
- B. Wilbur Wright Elementary-the safety entrance has been completed. There are a couple items still awaiting parts. The renovation looks different but is a much better and safer environment for students.
- C. Transportation – several changes as we started this year. Two primary goals for this department was to save instruction time by examining elementary routes. This would allow to move dismissal time and increase instruction time the equivalent of up to 15 days. The second goal is safety. Traffic patterns have been scrutinized and at the high/middle school the students are released in two waves. This will eliminate students walking between busses and entering the bus on the correct side at the curb. The department is rising to the occasion and a huge thanks was given for their help and assistance that will benefit our kids.
- D. Advertising for weight room – the corporation will be opening bids within the next couple of weeks. The recommendation will be brought to the Board in September. The renovation will then begin in October.
- E. Eastwood & Parker – the safe entrances will be set to begin in January. This will be funded by a GO bond. Mrs. Smith indicated it is well designed and finalized plans have been shared with principals. The bidding process will take place this semester to be able to start construction by January. There was some discussion to Mrs. Smith's report.

V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.

- A. 23 new teachers were provided a day long orientation during Trojan University.
- B. \$5000 worth of prizes were distributed during the Welcome Back celebration held on August 6. Dr. Shoemaker wanted to thank local business and the community for their support.
- C. ADM is currently at 3035 – that is down 34 from ADM in September 2018. However, this is also 46 students higher than the state projection.
- D. Opportunity School began today – Dr. Shoemaker stated 12 students started this program that was presented during a previous board meeting. A big thank you was given to Kirk Amman and his efforts in ensuring we do what is best for our students. There was some discussion about this program.

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- VI. Budget – Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer, gave information relating to budget items.
- A. Megan recommended approval to transfer \$288,914 from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the recommendation as presented with a second by Nan Polk. After a brief discussion, the motion carried 4-0.
- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.
- A. Jaci Hadsell, former administrator; She asked if donations through the Community Foundation were tax deductible. She was informed they were. She also asked for clarification regarding funding of some of the renovation projects.
  - B. Jessika Feltz, parent; She wanted to give a compliment to Westwood Elementary staff and Mrs. Cox for how well they have worked to make student pick-up safer for students.
  - C. Kim Williamson, Board Vice President; He stated there are many positive things going on and the corporation is moving forward with great things for both kids and our community. He thanked teachers for their time on recent changes.
- VIII. Adjournment – With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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

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

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