

Minutes of Public Meeting

September 9, 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 September 9, 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 Compliance Officer

Also Present: Approximately 15 community members.

- I. Call to Order by President Travis Callaway at 7:02 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call – All members present.
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session – August 12, 2019 – Kim Williamson moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Shoemaker stated one change had been made to the posted agenda. New Business, Item “k” – Change the next Regular Session to October 21, 2019. Nan Polk moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Kim Williamson. 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 as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion motion carried 5-0.
 1. Field Trips Included:
 - a) September 25, 2019-Career Center-Greg Dickerson to Dayton, Ohio
 - b) October 6, 2019-Career Center-Dawn Upchurch to Columbus, Ohio
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments

- III. New Business
 - A. Fanning & Howey Report – Lara Blankenburg gave a brief status report on the on-going renovation projects in the district. She presented a short presentation that showed a mock drawing of the proposed finished weight room. She also indicated the bid received for the weight room project was under budget. She then gave a point cloud drawing of the middle school stating the drawing will help to understand the wall locations as well as other structural areas on the different levels of the building. There was a brief discussion regarding how input is being received from staff as well as some current items currently displayed within the Field House. Dr. Shoemaker then stated a representative from Fanning & Howey will be present at Board meetings each month during the renovations.

- B. Adopt Preliminary Bond Resolution – Megan Bell indicated this resolution is to seek approval for the GO Bond. Kim Williamson moved to approve the resolution as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. After a brief discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- C. Adopt Reimbursement Resolution – Nan Polk moved to present the reimbursement resolution as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- D. Adopt Resolution to support salary increases for teachers with TRF funds – Dr. Shoemaker gave a brief explanation of the direction each school corporation was given by the State of Indiana. Our corporation obligation was reduced by 2% which in turn needs to be given back to the teachers in salary. Nan Polk moved to approve the recommendation as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Kim Williamson abstained as his wife is a current New Castle teacher. With little discussion, motion carried 4-0-1.
- E. Approve Support Staff Stipend – Dr. Shoemaker recommended two \$800 stipends be given to support staff who are eligible for health insurance and one \$300 stipend be given to support staff ineligible. A detailed listing of complete eligibility is attached. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Nan Polk. Motion carried 5-0.
- F. Approve one time HSA contribution – Dr. Shoemaker recommended a one-time contribution be given to employees who enrolled in the high deductible health plan for the 2019 plan year. Certified staff will receive \$1000 and support staff will receive \$500. He also indicated deposits will be made on or before September 30, 2019. Cory Bennett moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0.
- G. Foundation Fund Proposed Accounts – Dr. Shoemaker indicated this item was discussed with the Administrative team to offer suggestions on future pass through funds with the Henry County Community Foundation. After discussions with the foundation, it was determined that the Foundation Board would want a substantial donor for a particular fund before establishing that fund. There was much discussion regarding the funding areas that are desired as well as the feasibility of each fund. Nan Polk moved to table the discussion until both the Foundation and Corporation are ready to move forward with funds and donations. Kim Williamson gave the second and the motion carried 5-0.
- H. Bid for Weight Room – Lisa Smith indicated one bid was received during the bidding process. The bid was from a reputable contractor and presented under budget. She recommended approval of the project including base bid and alternate bids 1, 2, 3, and 4. Kim Williamson moved to approve as recommended with a second by Cory Bennett. After some discussion the motion carried 5-0.
- I. Conflict of Interest – Dr. Shoemaker stated he had received two Conflict of Interest forms from two current coaching staff, Seth Lee and Kyle York. These individuals have purchased a local business that is a vendor for the school corporation. In an effort to follow policy and remain transparent, this disclosure is submitted for approval by the Board. After much discussion and conversations with both local counsel and Indiana State School Board Association attorney, the Board felt it prudent to make this public disclosure. It was also discussed that in the future a policy or guideline be developed for vendors with a conflict to be required to submit two quotes for any purchases over a certain threshold, possibly \$1000. Dr. Shoemaker will work with local counsel to develop an Administrative Guideline. Cory

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Bennett moved to approve the Conflict of Interest Disclosure statement with a second by Kim Williamson. After a brief discussion, motion carried 5-0.

- J. September 4 Public Hearing Comments – Dr. Shoemaker stated a Public Hearing was held on September 4, 2019 as required by law to allow for public comments on upcoming negotiations. He indicated there were no public members in attendance.
- K. Change Regular Session from October 14, 2019 to October 21, 2019 – Dr. Shoemaker indicated this change is requested due to Fall Break and to allow timely reports be prepared for the packet. Cory Bennett moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- A. Advertisement for Parker & Eastwood – A walk through will occur on September 18, 2019 and bids will be opened on October 9, 2019 and then presented to the Board for approval.
- B. Field House bleachers – This project is near completion.
- C. West wall of the Field House is almost complete. Staff has done an excellent job.
- D. Parker Pre-K – the corporation is on target to complete Level 3 & 4 Past Equality. It is anticipated to be approved this year.

V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent.

- A. Count Day is Friday, September 13, 2019. Our preliminary numbers indicate an ADM of 3029. This is up from the State projection.
- B. Open insurance enrollment has been completed and Dr. Shoemaker wanted to thank employees and his team for their cooperation and hard work in getting this accomplished.
- C. State of the Corporation address – Dr. Shoemaker is working on this and will set a date to deliver to the corporation.
- D. ILearn scores have been returned and are down across the state. The Indiana State Superintendent and Governor Holcomb have indicated they will hold schools harmless. More details will be forthcoming.
- E. Field House Open was held Saturday, September 7, 2019. This golf tournament hosted 146 players and was a reunion for many former athletes. It was a great day for all in attendance. Dr. Shoemaker wanted to thank Sam Alford for organizing, Shane Osting for his hard work and Steve Alford for coming to the tournament.

VI. Budget – Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer, gave information relating to budget items.

- A. Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund – Jennifer Blackford moved to transfer \$228,130 from the Education Fund to Operations Fund for August expenditures. Cory Bennett gave the second and motion carried 5-0.
- B. Public Hearing – Opened 7:51 pm – Closed 7:55 pm
 - a. Bus Replacement Plan – Megan Bell stated the plan to purchase busses if needed. There were few comments on this plan.

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- b. Capital Projects Plan – Megan Bell gave a brief description of the plan and stated it has changed slightly from previous years. She also indicated it is not a final list. There were no questions or comments.
- c. Corporation Budget – Megan Bell indicated the corporation budget is \$32 million and shorter than previous years due to the reduction to three funds. There were no questions or comments. She indicated the budget would be approved next month.

VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.

- A. Jaci Hadsell, former Administrator: asked for clarification in the reduction in pension amounts. She also encouraged the corporation to make sure Foundation Funds would be distributed fairly across the different programs. Dr. Shoemaker answered her questions.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____