

Minutes of Public Meeting

July 13 2020

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 July 13, 2020.

Board Members Present: In Person: Cory Bennett, Member; Travis Callaway, President; Nan Polk, Secretary; Kim Williamson, Vice President and Virtual: Jennifer Blackford, Member

Central Office Administrators Present: Matthew Shoemaker, Superintendent; Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director; Jena Schmidt, Human Resource Officer, Dr. Greg Crider

Also Present: Approximately 32 community members both in person and virtually.

- I. Call to Order-by President Travis Callaway at 7:01p.m.
 - A. Roll Call - All members present
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session – June 8, 2020 – Cory Bennett moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – Nan Polk moved to approve the agenda as amended 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 Items: Approval of Reports: Travel; Monthly Personnel; Bill Lists #65993 through #66362; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests – Cory Bennett moved to approve reports as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary - No comments

- III. New Business
 - A. Recognize New Castle Retirees – Dr. Shoemaker listed the list of retirees and their years of service in education. Each retiree was previously presented with a piece of the field house bleachers that had been engraved with their names. William Wessler was presented with the Shapiro Award for 51 years of service to the New Castle High School.
 - B. *Approval of Middle School Bids – Dr. Shoemaker stated the bidding process was completed in June. Bids were received from multiple contractors and were divided into three categories. A: General Construction; B: Mechanical, Plumbing and Fire and C: Electrical and Technology. The total bid recommendation is \$17,255,520. Dr. Shoemaker also stated a Special Session is scheduled for July 23, 2020 to discuss priority of capital projects. The Board thanked all for their due diligence and hard work. Nan Polk moved to approve the recommendation with a second by Kim Williamson. After a brief discussion, motion carried 5-0.

- C. *Approval of NCCSC Re-Entry Plan – Dr. Shoemaker presented the Preliminary Re-Entry Plan explaining the proposed plan is a fluid document which is subject to change. He also explained there has been much collaboration with the county health department, area superintendents as well as guidance from the state level. Multiple meetings have been held with various committee members, teacher union, parents, administrators and an ad-hoc Health Committee. Dr. Shoemaker explained a voluntary additional preparation day will be available on August 3, 2020 to receive additional training as well as time to prepare classrooms for re-entry. Teachers will be eligible to receive a stipend for that additional day up to \$100. Dr. Shoemaker briefly highlighted certain components of the plan. There were questions and much discussion from the Board. Dr. Shoemaker also reiterated that employees should contact Human Resources if they would like to request special accommodations. Each request will be determined on an individual basis. He also stated the corporation has almost exhausted the funds received from the CARES Act in the amount of \$729,000. A FAQ has been compiled and will be posted on the corporation web-site with other COVID-19 related documents. The meeting was then opened for community comments.

Public Comments:

- Grayson Joslin, student – Stated many statistics and why he felt passionate about why the corporation should make wearing masks mandatory for all staff and students.
- Sara Espiritu, student – Stated her opinion as to why she believes masks should be mandatory for all staff and students. She also stated she represented and was speaking for approximately 350 community members.
- Kristin Cronk, parent – Stated why she felt that students whose parents chose to attend the virtual academy should be permitted to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities regardless of funding. Wanted her student to be included the same as any other student who attended traditional brick and mortar. She also felt that her decision to enroll her child virtually would assist the corporation in lowering class sizes.
- Curt Huntley, lay coach – Asked if communication would be sent when clubs are permitted to begin meeting. It is his understanding a decision may occur in September.
- Sydney Dungey, teacher – Questioned the availability of substitute teachers and how the corporation was planning for coverage for teachers.
- School Board – Angela Cox (Henry County Health Department) – there was much continued discussion regarding Governor Holcomb’s Back on Track Plan, self-assessment, symptoms and necessity of PPE. She further explained her guidance to all Henry County schools.
- Patty Broyles, community member – Stated the students needed to be educated in the necessity and requirements for wearing a mask.

With no further discussion, Cory Bennett moved to approve the re-entry plan as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 4-1 with Nan Polk casting the nay vote.

- D. *Approval of Roofing Project Bids – Dr. Shoemaker stated his recommendation is for Moisture Management which included a 20 year warranty. He also stated there were seven (7) competitive bids. Kim Williamson moved to approve the recommendation as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

- E. *Approval of Food Service Contracts – The Food Service Director stated this was an annual approval. The contracts are the same as in previous years. A big thank you was given to the Food Service Department for their dedication and service to our students during this summer and throughout the pandemic. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.
- F. *Approval of Textbook Rental and Fee Agreement – Megan Bell stated minimal changes to this schedule. Cory Bennett moved to approve as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- G. *Approval of Elementary Handbook – Sherri Bergum reported no major changes to this handbook. Kim Williamson moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0.
- H. *Approval of McKinney-Vento/Foster Care Plan – Dr. Shoemaker stated annual approval is requested each year for the Homeless/Foster Care Plan. These plans were combined as they have the same administrator in charge. Cory Bennett moved to approve the plan as presented with a second by Nan Polk. After a brief discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- I. *Approval of After School Programming (Latchkey) – This plan was reported to have no significant changes. The agreement does include the addition of a site at Eastwood Elementary and a cap of families that will be accepted into the program. Cory Bennett moved to approve as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- J. *Approval of Transportation Handbook – No major changes was reported. Cory Bennett moved to approve as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- K. *Approval of Support Staff Handbooks – No major changes was reported. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.
- L. *Approval of Compensation Schedule for Support Staff & ECA – After a brief discussion Jennifer Blackford moved to approve as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- M. *Approval of Second Amendment to Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking – Megan Bell gave a brief explanation this is required to keep in compliance for moving from a small issuance to a large issuance. Nan Polk moved to approve with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. Buildings & Grounds – Dr. Shoemaker gave the report on behalf of Lisa Smith.

- A. Lisa Smith will address facility priorities during the upcoming Special Session.
- B. Transportation Survey – received 1400 responses.
- C. 20 water filling stations will be installed across the district as the drinking fountains will not be used this year due to COVID-19.
- D. Maintenance as worked hard to clean/fix elementary schools – a huge thank you to the custodian and maintenance departments for their hard work.

V. Superintendent Report – Updates presented by Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Shoemaker.

- A. Virtual Academy – collaboration has been fantastic. We will have a virtual document that will further explain the Virtual Academy. This will be posted on the web-site.

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- VI. Budget – Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer, gave information relating to budget items.
 - A. Report on Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund for June – Megan Bell reported the June transfer was \$236,207. The total transfer for the year was below the target of 15% which was set by the state. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.

- VII. Public Questions & Comments – The meeting is open for comments.
 - A. Dee Orick, Food Service Director – reported the department surpassed a distribution in excess of 200,000 meals. She commended her staff on their hard work.
 - B. Curt Huntley, Coach – asked is there were scholarships available for families who may not be able to afford the cost of the after school programming. Ms. Bergum reported she believed the provider would work with families and not turn any away if possible.
 - C. Jennifer McGowan, Union President – expressed her thanks to Dr. Shoemaker and the School Board for their collaboration over the last several weeks. She also wanted to thank her Mutual Concerns team and stated all working toward a common goal was amazing.

- VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____