

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 14, 2020.

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

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

Also Present: Approximately 24 community members both in person and virtual.

- I. Call to Order-by President Travis Callaway at 7:03 pm
 - A. Roll Call - All members present
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session – August 10, 2020 - Cory Bennett 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 noted two changes to the posted agenda. Items 3a will be removed as Fanning & Howey has no report this month. In addition, item 3g will be added to include approval for the Superintendent to update the NCCSC Re-Entry Plan as needed and report to the board any changes. 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 #66522 through #66754; 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. Fanning & Howey Report - Dr. Shoemaker stated a report will be presented in October. Travis Callaway asked about the possibility of a tour of the facility. Dr. Shoemaker will make inquiries.
 - B. *Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for SRO – Dr. Shoemaker recommended the Memorandum of Understanding for Board approval. He stated the document was updated from previous agreements. Nan Polk asked about specific training of a School Resource Officer. Chief Schofield gave an overview. Kim Williamson moved to approve the memorandum as presented with a second by Nan Polk. The Board thanked the SRO’s for their dedication and service. With no further discussion, motion carried 5-0.

- C. September 10, 2020 Public Hearing Comments - Dr. Shoemaker reported a public hearing was held to open negotiations as required by law. This hearing was open to the public and held on September 10, 2020 for the purpose of hearing comments. Negotiations will begin with the NCEA tomorrow afternoon (September 15, 2020).
- D. *Approval of Roofing Bids – Lisa Smith gave a report from Moisture Management and a brief description of the projects included in the bids. She recommended to approve Korellis Roofing, Inc. to complete the Middle School Phase I project which will include Alternate #1 and Alternate #2 and McGuff Roofing, Inc. to complete the Middle School Phase II (Bundy) project which will include Alternate #1 and Alternate #2. Nan Polk moved to approve the recommendations as presented with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- E. *Revision of Re-Entry Plan – Dr. Shoemaker stated the Health Advisory Committee met on September 10, 2020 and the revision reflects minimal changes based on that meeting and items that were discussed. After a brief discussion, Cory Bennett moved to approve the re-entry plan as revised with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 5-0. Dr. Shoemaker stated the next Health Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 14, 2020.
- F. *Change Regular Session to October 19, 2020 - This recommendation is requested to ensure reports are completed in a timely manner after Fall Break. Nan Polk moved to approve the re-scheduled regular session with a second by Kim Williamson. Motion carried 5-0.
- G. *Approval for Superintendent Update NCCSC Re-Entry Plan as needed - Dr. Shoemaker is requesting authorization to revise the plan and update on the corporation web-site as needed and report changes to the Board on a monthly basis if necessary. This will allow for timely changes as recommended by the Henry County Health Department without delays. Nan Polk moved to approve the request with a second by Cory Bennett. After some discussion, motion carried 5-0.

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

- A. Middle School - meetings are held every two weeks with all stakeholders to provide updates. The project is currently running ahead of schedule.
- B. A meeting was held with Fanning & Howey and the Athletic Director to review possible future projects. The corporation is also looking at the performing arts facility as well as some updates to corporation kitchens.
- C. Secure entrances at Eastwood and Parker - This project is recommended to send out for a rebid. Due to the COVID closures, the last bidding process resulted in one bid which was over budget. Plans will be developed to move forward with these projects and a report will be brought back to the Board for approval.

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

- A. A big thank-you to teachers, administrators for a smooth school opening as well as the countless hours spent to develop and communicate the safe re-entry and the Virtual Academy. A brief report was also given on the differences between the corporation Virtual Academy versus using an out-sourced company. The corporation currently has approximately 20% of student enrollment in the Virtual Academy.

- B. A big thank-you to Richie Broyles and the Maintenance Department for all their hard work in the moving of furniture and equipment from the Middle School. These individuals worked tirelessly to make sure the Middle School was ready for renovations.
- C. Westwood Elementary School - Congratulations on their recognition for IReady remote learning usage and online lessons during the school closure last spring.
- D. Huge thanks to Sherri Bergum for being awarded another competitive grant in the amount of \$50,000 for technology from IDOE. She has secured approximately \$300,000 for our corporation to use toward technology.
- E. Thank you to Dr. Wilkey and her Health Department - Her work is invaluable in connection with our county Health Department during these unprecedented times.
- F. Pictures of Middle School - the progress is wonderful, the facility will be amazing. Dr. Shoemaker also wanted to share his pride in our kids during their usage of face masks at all levels. The response has been great.

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

- A. Report on Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund for August - \$237,000 - Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the transfer as recommended with a second by Nan Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- B. Public Hearing – Open Hearing at 7:48 pm
 - a. Bus Replacement Plan - Megan Bell described the 5 year plan then opened for discussion - there were no comments or questions.
 - b. Capital Projects Fund Plan - Megan Bell described the 3 year plan then opened for discussion - there were no comments or questions.
 - c. Corporation Budget - Megan Bell presented the 2021 budget explaining the changes from last year. She indicated the debt remains level and there will not be an increase in taxes. The hearing was opened for discussion - there were no comments or questions from the public. Nan Polk asked if the budget correlates to the strategic plan. Dr. Shoemaker stated the long-term planning is considered.

Public Hearing closed at 7:55 pm.

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

- A. Forrest Plank, Community Member - asked what metrics and aggregate data is used to measure virtual students. Dr. Shoemaker addressed his questions. He then asked a follow-up regarding the success of the Transfinder software. Lisa Smith answered his questions with some examples of the benefits of the software the corporation is experiencing.
- B. Jaci Hadsell, Former Administrator - Stated our teachers are doing progress monitoring of virtual students to determine if their learning is advancing at a typical rate.
- C. Patty Broyles, Community Member - Expressed her gratitude the Board gave the Food Service Department last month. She also indicated the need to pay good people. She also stated she thought the corporation was doing a great job with the re-entry plan. She then expressed her concerns regarding excluding students from school for typical illnesses. Dr. Shoemaker stated

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the only way we could be consistent was to utilize the recommendation of our Health Department.

- D. Ellen Ice, Community Member - Asked if contact tracing was done each time and what the requirements were. Her questions were answered that this is completed each time.
- E. Travis Callaway, Board President - Thanked the School Board for their work over the last few months. He also discussed teamwork and asked the public to share concerns with the Board to work as a team during these difficult times. He asked the community to work with the Board and asked all to work together and not be divisive.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

President:

Vice President:

Secretary: