

Minutes of Public Meeting

October 19, 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 October 19, 2020.

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

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

Also Present: Approximately 18 community members both in person and virtual.

- I. Call to Order-by President Travis Callaway at 7:00 pm
 - A. Roll Call - All members present
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session – September 14, 2020
Kim Williamson moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Nan Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda
Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Cory Bennett. 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 #66755 through #66974; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests
Nan Polk 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
Nan Polk had a question and Amy Blake responded.
- III. New Business
 - A. Fanning & Howey Report – Lara Blankenburg gave a presentation to update on the renovations. She provided a brief explanation with pictures of the progress. She also stated that she is hopeful to be complete the renovations prior to March 2022. There was a brief discussion on the update and also on the secured entrances at Eastwood and Parker Elementary Schools. The bids for those projects are expected to go out after the holiday season.
 - B. Ratify Master Teacher Contract – Dr. Shoemaker provided a brief update on the negotiations and the process. There was a brief discussion.
 - C. Monthly Update of Re-Entry Plan – Dr. Shoemaker stated this will be a standing item. The Health Advisory Committee met on October 14, 2020. At this time, no revisions have been made.

- D. Update on Virtual Education – Virtual Instruction Coordinators, Ramona Hacker and Brad King provided an update on the Virtual Academy. At this time approximately 17% of our enrollment is attending the Virtual Academy. This percentage has been as high as 23%. Dr. Shoemaker stated his gratitude to teachers, staff, parents and students for their patience and resiliency during this process. With the full collaborative effort, New Castle has been able to provide a consistent platform. Ramona Hacker and Brad King explained their specific support to students and parents. Their primary tasks include consistent monitoring of attendance. They have many layers of communication with all concerned. Web-sites have been created and monitoring of grades and concerns have been researched and communication to those identified. It was also mentioned that more students are returning to traditional in house education as parents and students are more comfortable with the safe guards the school has put in place. There was lots of discussion between the Board and Coordinators.

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

- A. Virtual Day – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – This will provide the teachers time to get caught up and work with kids.
- B. Mike LaRocco, IDOE Director of School Transportation will be in the district on October 21, 2020 to provide training for our bus drivers.
- C. Perfect attendance stipends – 15% have perfect attendance.
- D. Middle School – The progress is amazing. Drywall is expected to be placed very soon. The contractors are working ahead of schedule.
- E. Middle School Kitchen & Bundy Auditorium – The Corporation is reviewing timelines for improvement in the kitchen as soon as possible and Bundy in the fall.

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

- A. Special Session – Will be scheduled for October 26, 2020 and will be open to the public and held in Bundy Auditorium.
- B. Middle School Tour – Immediately following the Special Session, a tour will be conducted for Board Members and the public who attend the session. Dr. Shoemaker stated the school is an active construction zone and safety measures will be followed.
- C. Donations – A big thank you to the Chamber and Reid Hospital for their donations of additional PPE for our students.
- D. Volleyball and Cross Country Teams - for their recent coat drive.
- E. \$750 from Probation Juvenile – for sensory items to benefit students.
- F. High School Volleyball – Congratulations for their season and tough loss to Yorktown.
- G. Cross Country – The boys team and two students from the girls team will advance to the Semi-State competition.

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 - \$390,000
Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the transfer as recommended with a second by Kim Williamson. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

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B. *Approval of Bus Replacement Plan

Nan Polk moved to approve the Bus Replacement Plan as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

C. *Approval of Capital Projects Plan

Kim Williamson moved to approve the Capital Projects plan as presented with a second by Nan Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

D. *Approval of Corporation Budget

Nan Polk moved to approve the Corporation Budget as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

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

A. Jaci Hadsell, former administrator – Asked for clarification on bids for the secured entrance projects.

B. Forrest Plank, community member – Asked if contingency plans have been discussed in the county shows an increase in positive cases as people travel during the holidays. Secondly, has an analysis been done regarding possible performance gaps between brick & mortar and virtual students. Dr. Shoemaker responded to his questions.

C. Patty Broyles, community member – Expressed her thanks for renovations in the kitchen. She also stated the Health Department voiced their appreciation for the work we are doing in conjunction with them to keep our students as healthy as possible. She expressed her appreciation.

D. Travis Callaway & Nan Polk – stated the corporation has seen many changes and the positive changes are a result of good leadership from the top.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____