

Minutes of Public Meeting

November 9, 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 November 9, 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; Lisa Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Greg Crider, Attorney – Virtually: Megan Bell, Chief Financial Officer; Sherri Bergum, Curriculum Director

Also Present: Approximately 35 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 – October 19, 2020 and Special Session – October 26, 2020 – Nan Polk moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Approval of Agenda – There were no changes on the agenda. Cory Bennett moved to approve the agenda as presented 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 #66975 through #68946; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests – Jennifer Blackford moved to approve reports as presented with a second by Nan Polk. Questions were asked regarding CARES ACT funds. With no further discussion motion carried 5-0.
 - C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary.

- III. New Business
 - A. Fanning & Howey Report – No report was given.
 - B. *Ratify Master Teacher Contract – Dr. Shoemaker gave a brief presentation on the contract changes. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Kim Williamson abstaining due to a conflict of interest.
 - C. *Approval of Expenditure Category Goals – Megan Bell presented these goals. Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Kim Williamson abstaining due to a conflict of interest.
 - D. *Approval of TAG Grant – Dr. Shoemaker stated that as per state regulations, these funds are based on the evaluations from the 2019-2020 school year. He went on to request a vote in November since there is usually only a 15 or so day turn around in December when TAG grant money is awarded. He also noted that all certified teachers will be included even if they did not

have a class roster in 2019/20. These certified staff would include but are not limited to school counselors, media specialists, and data coaches. Dr. Shoemaker stated that administrators are not included in the TAG grant but will be compensated in a likewise manner from the education fund in December. Cory Bennett moved to approve as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Kim Williamson abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

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

- A. A brief moment of silence was observed for two employees who passed away. Linda McCaslin was an Instructional Assistant at Westwood Elementary and Wanda Rose was in the Food Service Department.
- B. Middle School Cafeteria – plans are being reviewed on the necessary updates. Bids should be available for Board approval in April or May.
- C. Eastwood/Parker Secured Entrances – Plans are being reviewed with building principals. Bids should be available for Board approval in March.
- D. Transportation – The first nine week stipend for perfect attendance was given to 15 of 19 bus drivers.

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

- A. Health Committee – This committee meets every two weeks. The committee reviews each topic at every meeting to discuss what changes may be necessary. Currently Henry County remains orange. Attendance at events may change as needed.
- B. A special thank you to Trina Wilkey and Angela Cox for always being available when needed. Also to Jena Schmidt and Richie Broyles. The custodial staff is doing a great job with deep cleaning classrooms and offices as necessary. Thank you to Principals and Teachers for their continued commitment as we struggle, at times, to cover classes. There were some questions regarding absenteeism.
- C. A thank you to School Board candidates and congratulations to Jennifer Blackford, Jaci Hadsell and Nan Polk on their recent elections. Also a thank you to Kim Williamson for four years of service to the staff and students of the corporation. Newly elected members will be sworn in during the January Regular Session.
- D. Congratulations to the football team for their Sectional win.
- E. Pool Update – \$90,000 was spent over the summer to repair cracks, paint the pool, clean the gutters, install an ADA lift, and install the base of a diving board platform. Since the summer repair work was completed, a previously repaired leak has resurfaced to warrant further and immediate repair. Two structural engineer firms have been consulted to evaluate the integrity of the pool near the large crack and to determine the best possible solution for repairs without compromising the pool. We have selected Paul Brumleve from Lynch Harrison, Brumleve and Paul is with us on our call tonight. He will be back this Thursday to meet with the person who will conduct the radar imaging to inspect the pool. Concurrently we are working with the company who repaired the crack and painted the pool as well as seeking alternate solutions to

repair or cover the crack which is causing the problem. Dr. Shoemaker stated that the leak and loss of the pool has been frustrating for everyone and he appreciates everyone's patience.

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 - \$ 270,025 – Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the transfer as recommended with a second by Nan Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.
- B. *Approval of 2021 Budget Line 2 Resolution – Nan Polk moved to approve as presented with a second by Cory Bennett. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- A. Katie Nelson, Parent – stated she is representing three swimming parents. She had many questions regarding the pool as well as transportation needs for the team. There was some discussion.
- B. Kristen Owens, teacher – stated she believes communication is important and expressed her wish list for the pool area.
- C. Michael Griffey, parent – stated he left a message regarding repairing the pool heater.
- D. Jessika Feltz, parent – questions regarding the open School Counselor positions. Sherri Bergum responded to the concerns. President Travis Callaway asked the Superintendent to provide the board an update on the status of school counselors at our next board meeting.
- E. Sandy Jones, community member – expressed her concern regarding education on Martin Luther King, Jr Day in January. Dr. Shoemaker responded to Ms. Jones by saying that he arrived in 2017 when the calendar was already established a year prior. He went on to say that his past 30 years of work experience was from a very diverse population and that since his involvement in the calendar planning with the Teachers Association, NC Schools has always honored Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday by identifying it as a holiday for students and staff. He vowed to continue that commitment.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

President:

Vice President:

Secretary: