

Minutes of Public Meeting

January 11, 2021

The New Castle Community School Board of Trustees met in the Raintree Education Center located at 529 Fifth Street, New Castle, IN 47362 on January 11, 2021.

Board Members Present: In Person: Jaci Hadsell, Member; Nan Polk, Secretary and Virtually: Cory Bennett, Member; Jennifer Blackford, Member; Travis Callaway, President

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

Also Present: Approximately 26 community members virtually.

- I. Call to Order-by President Travis Callaway at 7:07 pm
 - A. Roll Call - All members present including Board Member Elect
 - B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Session – December 14, 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 – Dr. Shoemaker stated there were changes on the posted agenda. Jennifer Blackford moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Nan Polk. With no discussion, motion carried 5-0.

II. Reorganization of the School Board

Joel Harvey administered the Oath of Office to Jennifer Blackford and Jaci Hadsell prior to reorganization. Nan Polk then requested the floor to make a statement prior to reorganization. Her comments were to express her desire to be elected as President for the coming year. Joel Harvey then took the floor to ask for nominations for President.

President: Jaci Hadsell nominated Nan Polk and Cory Bennett nominated Travis Callaway for the office. With no other nominations, a vote was taken. There were three votes for Travis Callaway and two votes for Nan Polk. Travis Callaway was elected President for 2021. Joel Harvey then turned the meeting back to the President to complete the meeting.

Vice President: Travis Callaway nominated Jennifer Blackford, with no other nominations; Jennifer Blackford was elected Vice President.

Secretary: Jaci Hadsell nominated Nan Polk and Travis Callaway nominated Cory Bennett. Nan Polk received four votes and Cory Bennett one vote, Nan Polk was elected Secretary.

Regular Session: It was established to hold all regular session meetings on the second Monday of each month and to begin the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Location: The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at the Community Education Center.

- Legislative Liaison – Nan Polk
- Vocational Board – Jaci Hadsell
- Corporation Treasurer – Megan Bell
- Deputy Treasurer – Leah Melton

III. Communications/Routine Consent Items/Regularly Recurring Reports/Other

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- A. Public Questions and Comments on Agenda Items – No comments
- B. Routine Consent Items: Approval of Reports: Travel; Monthly Personnel; Bill Lists #7351 through #67485; Payroll Claims and Donations; and Field Trip Requests – Nan Polk moved to approve reports as presented with a second by Jennifer Blackford. With no further discussion motion carried 5-0.
- C. Submission of Monthly Corporation Extra-Curricular Receipts and Disbursements and Fund Reports - no action necessary.

IV. New Business

- A. Approval of Declaration for Conflict of Interest – Jaci Hadsell notified the Board that she is a mentor for an administrator within our cooperative for Indiana Association of School Principals.
- B. Report on GFS Contract Renegotiations – Megan Bell reported this item is for informational purposes only. A document was included in the packet detailing the updated negotiated contract.
- C. COVID Update (Extend Emergency Paid Sick Leave through the end of school year) – The recommendation is to expend emergency paid sick leave through May 31, 2021. Jaci Hadsell moved to approve the use of up to ten emergency paid sick leave days to be used between the dates of April 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. A second was given by Nan Polk, motion carried 5-0.
- D. Enrollment Incentive for Certified Staff – Dr. Shoemaker stated this was a discussion item only. He expressed his thanks to all staff for their excellent communication throughout this pandemic. He also stated it is his desire to get kids back in session and would like to offer an incentive to certified staff if we maintain corporation enrollment. He stated this would need to be a memorandum of understanding between the corporation and the NCEA before a contribution could be made to individual schools.

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

- A. Middle School – discussion occurred regarding the transition from grade 6 to the middle school. She also stated the project is moving quickly and a walk-through was completed last week and was well received.
- B. Swimming Pool is complete and in use for meets as well as classes.
- C. Custodial Staff – information was relayed that our custodial staff is continuing to provide normal cleaning routines of the buildings as well as provide deep cleaning services to those areas that have been identified as possible COVID exposures.
- D. The high school roof is complete.
- E. Secure Entrances for Eastwood and Parker will have a walk-through on February 9, 2021 and bids will be opened on March 2, 2021. A recommendation will be brought to the School Board for approval during the March meeting.

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

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- A. Travis Callaway wanted to give his thoughts on the hard work and savings that have been provided to the corporation because of the work that is being done in-house by Lisa Smith and Richie Broyles. He believes these individuals have saved the corporation in excess of \$1 million.
- B. Dr. Shoemaker asked Jacob White, Adam McDaniel and Kirk Amman to provide a report on best practices for grading, remediation and some adjustments that have been made as a result of COVID. He also stated the corporation has reserved \$100,000 for remediation purposes. Each principal gave a brief report on what their grade levels are doing to provide services that are best for our students and focus on academic success. Dr. Shoemaker thanked the administrators for their reports and there was some discussion.
- C. Trojan Care Closet – thanked Dr. Trina Wilkey and Little Blessings for their assistance in creating this service of providing hygiene products for our secondary students.
- D. Dr. Shoemaker thanked the staff for providing videos and working hard to provide holiday cheer for the students during our virtual time. Thank you to Kelley Cox and Rebecca Wand for the laughs they provided during their video.

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

- A. Report on Transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund for December Expenditures - \$225,000 – This amount kept the corporation within the 15% threshold established by the State.
- B. Void Stale Check – Megan Bell reported one stale check would be removed from books.

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

- A. Nan Polk – Asked about input and comments regarding the design of the middle school student bathrooms. Dr. Shoemaker stated all comments were favorable and positive in nature.

VIII. Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____